

Hafa Adai!

Teen gets 42 months for stealing
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75¢

Push in DC for 15K-35K foreign workers

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

A casino investor, among other business interests, are lobbying in Washington, D.C. for as much as 15,000 to 35,000 foreign nationals to be allowed employment as contract workers in the CNMI, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan yesterday. That 35,000-worker demand, he said, would amount to about 65 percent of the CNMI's population and result in irrevocable changes to the Commonwealth that should be questioned. **See PUSH on Page 4**

Kilili files bid for 2016

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday he has filed with the Federal Election Commission his intent to run for the CNMI's U.S. delegate seat in Congress in 2016. Sablan told reporters he filed his form with the election commission on Monday but stopped short of an official announcement for his re-



Sablan

election, saying he still consulting with his wife, Andrea, and his working committee on a potential bid.

However, many believe a run by Sablan—who is his fourth term as delegate—is forthcoming, as he aims to get the federal government to “cover over” the costs of earned income tax credits in the CNMI—an initiative he has aimed for awhile now—secure his legacy, and set up his suc-

See KILILI on Page 4

US Labor files countersuit vs Dynasty

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez and other federal labor officials have filed a counterclaim in federal court against the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and its

president, Kwan Man.

Perez, Labor Wage and Hour Division administrator David Weil, Labor Wage and Hour Western Region regional administrator Ruben Rosalez, and Labor Wage and Hour Division district director Terrence Trotter filed

See LABOR on Page 4



WINNING TEAM

Members of the award-winning Aeronautical Dolphins of Marianas High School talk shop over a laptop yesterday during a courtesy call on acting governor Ralph DLG Torres. The Aeronautical Dolphins, led by MHS math teacher John Raulerson, bested Real World Design Challenge competitors from all over the United States and U.S. territories for the second time. The team consists of project manager Ann Margaret Norcio, mission planner Matthew Cao, project mathematician Masrur Alam, marketing specialist Edna Nisola, simulations engineer Jun Young Kim, and design engineer Robert Malate.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Tinian, Rota deputies OK'd to approve promissory notes

By **FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON**
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REPORTER

A new policy that will empower deputy directors on Tinian and Rota to approve promissory notes was adopted by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board yesterday after a majority voted yes to

the proposal.

The policy was adopted via a 4-1 vote after a heated argument during the continuation of the CUC board's special meeting that started Monday, their fifth day of meeting this month.

The policy was proposed by vice chair Eric San Nicolas. In addition to

being authorized to approve promissory notes, the policy allows both residential and commercial customers about a year to address their balance and to pay just 10 percent of their previous balance in addition to their current balance.

See TINIAN on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

In a scene playing out across the country, ground delays at U.S. airports are on the rise.

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ASIA

Hope for justice is fading six years after the Philippines' worst massacre.

» **PAGE 17**



LIFE & STYLE

The Philippines offers a medley of unique culinary experiences for the adventurous.

» **PAGE 20**



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Local

ARC contacts over 2K clients for disaster case management

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Coordinated Assistance Network, or CAN, which has been the driving force in determining the eligibility of clients who need assistance with rebuilding their homes since Typhoon Soudelor, has been providing weekly updates on the disaster case management efforts of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Latest data reveal that the number of clients who have been contacted has reached 2,110 so far. From Nov. 14 to Nov. 20 alone, 612 clients were contacted, broken down

into 57 referrals to disaster specific resources, 139 cases opened in CAN, and 471 clients served in cases opened during the period.

Client contacts refer to a two-way communication between the 21 disaster case-workers and do not include attempts to contact clients or voicemails left for clients.

The Top 3 client needs that have been identified are home repair and rebuilding, household goods in terms of appliances, and household goods such as furniture.

As of Nov. 24, CAN data reveal that four clients need benefits advocacy, legal advocacy and 73 various informational needs. A total of 103 clients

need clothing, two need children and youth services, three need job training, eight need jobs, 70 need food/nutrition, 366 need household goods, 49 need housing, six need emotional care, 14 require medical assistance, eight need mold remediation, 174 need repairs or rebuilding, eight need transportation, and 19 need utility assistance.

In addition to this data, World Renew, a non-government organization from the U.S. mainland that recently completed their assessment in partnership with the American Red Cross, provided construction and home rebuilding estimation. It has already assessed

See ARC on Page 4



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Teen gets 42 months for stealing FEMA battery, burglary

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Patrick Nick H. Muña, 18, was slapped yesterday with a prison term of three years and six months for stealing a battery from a Federal Emergency Management Agency's generator and for burglarizing a house in Garapan. The incidents happened weeks after Typhoon Soudelor ravaged Saipan.

Muña pleaded guilty to theft and burglary in the two cases.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Muña in both cases for a total of six years imprisonment, all suspended except for three years and six months.

Muña was given credit for time served. He is expected to complete his sentence on April 8, 2019. He will then be placed on supervised release for three years.

He was ordered to pay a \$100 fine, \$100 court assessment fee, and \$300 probation fee. He was required to perform 200 hours of community service.

Muña was ordered to write a letter of apology to FEMA and Dr. Chao Chiu and undergo drug counseling.

Muña was also required to co-operate with the Office of the Attorney General in the trial of his co-defendant, Bruce Iglecias.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer is counsel for Muña.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas said that Muña stole FEMA's generator battery last Sept. 10, at a time when the Commonwealth was vulnerable after Soudelor's massive destruction to the island.

Police said an officer was dispatched last Sept. 10 to a report-

ed theft of FEMA's generator battery at a water pump station along Tun Sedugo Street near the U.S. Post Office.

As detectives were interviewing people in the neighborhood, an anonymous tipster advised police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan to check Muña. The tip led to a police chase and the arrest of Muña last April 8.

Pangelinan said that Muña admitted to stealing the battery. The battery was recovered on Sept. 11.

Muña also admitted that he and Iglecias were behind the burglary at Dr. Chiu's residence in Garapan last Aug. 24 and the burglary at Flor's Hair Salon and Girl Talk in the same one-story commercial building in Garapan.

Muña's older brother, Roland Hernandez Muña, is also a notorious burglar who was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for burglarizing eight vehicles in San Vicente and violating his probation.



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Life In Motion

Inos family thanks community for support

The family of Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who is currently recovering from surgery in the U.S. mainland, has expressed their gratitude to the community for their support.

"In the midst of this Thanksgiving week, we, the children and grandchildren of Governor Inos, wish to express our profound appreciation to each and everyone of you for your healing prayers and thoughts during our father's surgery and during his recovery," the Inos family said in a statement yesterday.

"We are pleased that the surgery went well, and the doctors have advised that he rest

to ensure a speedy recovery. We will keep you posted on further updates on his recovery."

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres earlier said that Inos' stay in the hospital will require close observation and intensive care, and recovery will require Inos to undergo lengthy therapy.

"He is not expected to return to the Northern Marianas until late December or early January 2016," Torres said.

Inos' doctors had determined that the governor required surgery after an "echocardiogram" procedure, according to Inos spokesman Ivan Blanco. **(Dennis B. Chan)**

TINIAN

From Page 1

Checks and balances

Board member David Sablan, who gave the only "no" vote to the new policy, said this will remove all checks and balances.

"This is a terrible, terrible recommendation for a policy. You are removing the check and balance requirements to make sure that there is a second set of eyes that are responsible for the finances of CUC to make sure that we don't give everything out the door under promissory notes," Sablan said.

"There are a lot of people that are having difficulties trying to meet their bills. This is a means to help them but what you're suggesting is basically allowing them to steal from CUC. You are allowing people who are involved in management and operations to solely make a decision on whether a promissory should be entered into. You must have someone in the finance department look that over in order to make sure there is a check and balance," he added.

Sablan wanted the policy to be first reviewed by chief financial officer Matthew Yaquinto before being voted on.

"I still feel strongly that we should just give it to Matt. I suggest that vice chair San Nicolas withdraw this motion so that Matt can work on it so that we can come up with a very comprehensive recommendation from management on how to address the issuance of promissory notes," Sablan said prior to the voting procedure.

He also raised the question as to why there is a need to adopt the policy right away.

"Why do we need to change the policy? Has something come up that requires us to review this and make a change?" Sablan asked.

To this question, board member Joe Torres said that the CUC doesn't have a policy.

However, CUC is currently following what legal counsel James Sirok calls "practice," not "policy."

The current "practice" is that promissory notes on all three islands are processed through the Saipan office. Based also on Public Law 15-97, CUC may give residential consumers "up to one year to pay in full any outstanding balance in their accounts."

San Nicolas, in an interview, said the new policy is "to give the authority to approve those promissory notes to our deputy directors in the municipality of Tinian and Rota because they are the ones who manage those offices and they know the residential customers."

Board member Albert Taitano echoed the sentiment in the meeting when he said that they are "at the mercy" of whoever's working on Saipan for customers on Rota to get their promissory notes approved.

Decentralizing

Yaquinto, however, pointed out in the meeting that the policy is "decentralizing" and is "not a good idea."

After clearing from the board that the policy will allow the deputy directors on Tinian and Rota to make their own decisions on promissory notes, Yaquinto responded, "So then when something goes wrong financially, then I am going to be responsible for it? Without having any say?"

"If I'm not going to have any say in this and this will be up to them, then you're going to have to change my job description because I'm responsible for all financial activities of CUC and now you're taking that away from me by letting them approve it without me or my staff knowing about it," Yaquinto added.

Despite this, and despite Sablan's urging not to pass it, the board voted to approve the policy, which will be effective starting today.

Hegland, the estimates by World Renew have made reasonable material breakdowns for items such as nails, screws and brackets—a reality for the many clients in need of rebuilding assistance as illustrated through CAN data.

PUSH

From Page 1

"How much is enough for us?" and "Who will it benefit?" are questions that should be asked, Sablan told reporters yesterday.

The federal government in October set the annual limit for contract worker permits for next fiscal year at 12,999, a one-thousand drop from last year, as federal immigration officials looks to phase out the contract worker program that federal law mandates an end in 2019.

In an interview with reporters yesterday at his office in Susupe, Sablan compared the \$13 billion reported investment on the table to the "The Wharf" in Washington, D.C., a mega-project that he said would amount to several buildings, restaurants, apartments and condos, office streets, boat slips, 27 acres of land, 50 acres of water—all coming with six years of permitting.

"It's going to cost \$1.5 billion. And here in the Northern

Marianas, we are talking about \$13 billion," he said.

Sablan said there have been conversations in the Capitol about increasing the number of CW workers. Some have suggested 15,000 workers, he said, while others have gone up to as many as 35,000.

"Those are numbers being tossed at me...by different business interests primarily," Sablan said when asked.

When pressed for more details, he said, "I am aware that a casino has retained lobbyists in D.C. Yes. To work on both the CW workers and the Chinese visa-waiver [program]."

He was responding to a question from *Saipan Tribune* on whether Imperial Pacific CNMI (LLC)—the owner of the Saipan casino that has reported project demands requiring more than 10,000 workers—were lobbying in the Capitol.

However, as this develops, Sablan said he has taken a backseat to the contract worker issue for now out of respect for Gov. Eloy S. Inos' request for 902 negotiations with the White House

cious, or an abuse of discretion or otherwise contrary to law under the Administrative Procedures Act standard of review," Cruz and Schwab said.

HKE and Man sued the four officials in federal court in December 2014 for allegedly violating their due process right over their assessment of civil penalties of \$191,400.

HKE and Man, through counsel Bruce Berline, insist that the compliance agreement HKE signed with a Labor investigator prevent Perez and his co-defendants from assessing a civil money penalty against HKE and/or Man.

HKE and Man asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to set aside the decision that found HKE in violation of the FLSA's overtime provisions and the administrative law judge's imposition of civil penalties of \$191,400.

They also asked the court to remand the matter back to a labor administrative law judge for a hearing on the propriety of the monetary penalty assessed against HKE and Man.

HKE and Man also wants the court to declare that the portion of the law that allows the Labor Wage and Hour administrator to determine and

to hammer out a worker program package—believed to be a new visa class for the CNMI—for eventual introduction in the U.S. Congress.

"While the governor is going through the 902 effort, these people are going through another effort. ...Out of respect for the governor and his request for 902 consultation, I have taken a pause in my approach to this 2019 problem, but of course, if there is a free-for-all, then I am going to start doing my part."

On the visa-waiver program—which allows thousands of Chinese to travel as tourists into the CNMI without a visa—Sablan noted this is "discretionary" and dependent on the Secretary of Homeland Security.

"I have not heard anything recently that would alarm me to its being discontinued," he said.

Right-sizing development

Sablan's comments yesterday echo recent concerns of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which has expressed unease about the roughly six large developments in the CNMI that

are nascent or ongoing despite a clear lack of a sufficient local, foreign, or national workforce.

"The Chamber has been asking for a deep look at this," Chamber president Alex Sablan said last month, after the recent cut in contract worker limit. "What we've been asking for is planned development. I think we need to right-size some of these projects like the Best Sunshine project. We believe it's way too big...because of the lack of resources—human resources, infrastructure, many different facets of our islands."

Some Inos administration officials have also expressed concern about rampant development, *Saipan Tribune* learned, noting that approving every project that wishes to invest in the CNMI would be irresponsible. However, they urge that solutions—and not necessarily anti-casino or anti-development solutions—must be developed, as there will remain a shortage of workers even without future development after 2019, *Saipan Tribune* gathered recently.

LABOR

From Page 1

the counterclaim on Monday against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. and Man.

In their counterclaim, the federal officials asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a judgment affirming the U.S. Labor Administrative Review Board's final decision that ordered HKE and Man to pay a civil penalty totaling \$191,400 "for willful and repeat violations" of the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The Administrative Review Board issued its final decision and order on Nov. 25, 2014, affirming the administrative law judge's finding that HKE violated the FLSA's overtime provisions.

According to assistant U.S. attorneys Jessica F. Cruz and Mikel W. Schwab, representing the four federal officials, the review board also affirmed the administrative law judge's imposition of civil monetary penalty of \$191,400 for the violations.

"The ARB's final decision is supported by substantial evidence and is not arbitrary, capri-

assess a civil monetary penalty violates due process.

According to Berline in the complaint, at the time of the investigation, the federal minimum wage provisions had not been extended to the CNMI and federal authority under the FLSA was limited to overtime pay.

Berline said the manner by which Labor Wage and Hour Division determines and assesses a civil monetary penalty violates the due process rights of HKE and Man as guaranteed by the 5th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

In their counterclaim, Cruz and Schwab said the Wage and Hour administrator investigated HKE in 2001 for overtime violations that occurred from February 1999 to February 2001 involving over 400 employees.

Cruz and Schwab said the administrator filed an action against HKE and Man and a consent judgment was entered in 2002.

Under the consent judgment, the lawyers said, HKE and Man agreed to pay over \$591,000 in unpaid overtime and comply with the FLSA in the future.

In 2007, the administrator again investigated HKE and found overtime violations. The

administrator and HKE entered a settlement deal, in which HKE agreed to compensate 348 employees over \$309,000 for unpaid overtime.

Cruz and Schwab said the issue of civil money penalties was not resolved by the settlement agreement.

Cruz and Schwab said the administrator determined that civil money penalties should be assessed, totaling \$191,400 against HKE for willful and repeat violations of the FLSA's overtime provisions.

HKE requested a hearing and on Nov. 30, 2012, an administrative law judge affirmed the imposition of civil money penalties and the amount assessed.

Cruz and Schwab said the administrative law judge concluded that the 2007 settlement agreement for back wages did not waive civil monetary penalties.

Cruz and Schwab said the administrative law judge also concluded that the violations were willful and repeated, thus warranting the penalties.

The lawyers said HKE appealed to the Administrative Review Board and that, on Nov. 25, 2014, the ARB issued the final decision that affirmed the administrative law judge's decision.

KILILI

From Page 1

sor, with rumors swirling that he will run for governor in 2018.

Sablan said he is continuing to talk about a possible re-election bid with his wife and will be getting his core committee team together in December.

Sablan also addressed yesterday rumors that he will run for governor in 2018.

"This is my dream job," he told reporters. "I have no ambition to run for gover-

nor...but when circumstances change, not for me personally but when we continue to see things happen" that are "unfortunately and heavy-handedly, not in the best interests of the people of the Northern Marianas—who knows?"

When *Saipan Tribune* asked Sablan to elaborate on what are "not in the interests" of the CNMI, he said: "There are things—you report them yourselves—were laws are changed to accommodate a particular" entity.

"That doesn't happen in a de-

mocracy," he added. He did not elaborate further.

Sablan noted, though, that people should give the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres "a chance."

"This is a new administration. They are in their first year also," he said.

When talks shifted to his possible successor as delegate, Sablan said, "I am 60 years old," adding that he looking for someone younger and is eyeing to set a foundation for the next delegate to use as a springboard.

Sablan flies back to Washington D.C. this weekend as the House returns to session but he will be back on island before Christmas.

Sablan, who underwent spinal surgery in March, also touched on the issue of his health. He disclosed that on a recent trip to Rota he suffered a fall and hit the exact area in his back where his recent surgery had "cut."

"My doctor and I are trying to arrive at a decision on whether I should get another surgery," he said.

ARC

From Page 2

approximately 125 homes.

According to Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts director Jenny

Tinian mayor suggests alternatives to Marines' plans

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas has written to the executive director of Marianas Forces Pacific, Craig Whelden, to propose a cooperative plan for training U.S. Marines on Tinian, rather than wait for the Marines to propose another plan that might be contentious again.

"I have consistently said 'no' to the heavy artillery range with its high impact area," according to San Nicolas, "and I am saying 'no' to the dredging the coral reef at Chulu Beach."

In his letter to Whelden, the mayor stated, "Considering that the Navy has decided to create a supplement to the draft [CNMI Joint Military Training Draft Environmental Impact Statement], and taking into consideration the comments offered by our people, now may be the time to head off future litigation. I am suggesting that as part of the revisions to the draft EIS the

military analyze in their supplemental draft an alternative that is more compatible with the community. The basis for this alternative includes no use of artillery on Tinian, no destruction of coral reefs at Chulu by development of the AAV ramp, and protection of the National Historic Landmark at North Field."

In addition, the mayor is asking MarForPac to support a request from Tinian to the Department of the Interior incorporating Tinian into the new Manhattan Project National Historic Park system, along with the Los Alamos Laboratories, Oak Ridge Tennessee and Hanford Washington sites that have already been approved by Congress. To make this happen, San Nicolas is requesting that training at North Field be restricted to the area south of Runway Baker, except for air field operations on Baker and Able

runways and parking aprons.

The mayor believes getting Tinian into the Manhattan Project National Historic Park system would be a tremendous boost to the island's tourism marketing and can be balanced with military training in the military leased area.

Finally, the mayor suggests in his letter to Whelden that it "would also be advantageous to the resolution of issues if the [Department of defense] agreed to provide the Tinian people with the opportunity to compete for future base operations jobs by assisting our Public School System and Northern Marianas College to develop a curriculum that will build the skills needed for our people to obtain jobs on whatever military facilities are developed."

This is San Nicolas' second initiative relative to military training on Tinian, two-thirds of

which is leased to DoD. Previously, the mayor wrote to Gov. Eloy S. Inos requesting the establishment of a Civilian-Military Advisory Council for Tinian, as provided for in the Technical Agreement attached to the Covenant. (*Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan*)

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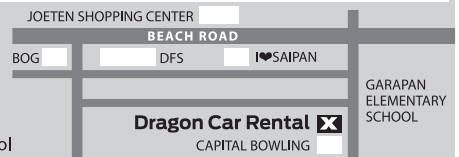
			
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CARE elects top officers and volunteer leadership team

Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts announced its new volunteer leadership team at its general meeting Tuesday. Officers elected to lead the organization include president Alex Sablan,



Sablan

vice president Lauri Ogomoro, and treasurer John Hirsh. The team will provide management for CARE and direction for the implementation of CARE's mission to build a resilient community and address unmet needs of individuals and families impacted by disaster.

"I'm honored to be asked to lead this important long-term recovery organization," said Sablan, who has been involved with Soudelor recovery as vice president of Tan Holdings and as manager for its "Project Ayudu," a fundraising campaign to assist with recovery from Soudelor's impact. "I am eager to do my part to help address the unmet needs of those impacted by disaster, and wish to thank Geri Willis for her leadership in developing CARE to this important point of transition." Willis recently stepped down from her initial leadership position facilitating CARE's formation.

Ogomoro has also been with CARE's leadership team from its beginning. "Facilitating the delivery of donated resources to those most impacted by disaster, but still with unmet needs, is an important challenge to take on," said Ogomoro. "I'm proud to be a part of CARE and to work with our partner agencies and community volunteers who are dedicated to seeing this work gets done." Ogomoro, who was off-island for the meeting Tuesday, is also the execu-

tive director of Karidat, which serves as CARE's fiscal agent.

"Cross-sector collaboration is essential to addressing the unmet needs in our community," said Hirsh, who has been at the



Ogomoro

forefront of Soudelor recovery and response as executive director of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter. "I look forward to working with this diverse team to implement CARE's mission."

Operating under recently approved bylaws, the Steering Committee is charged with pro-

viding direction for the implementation of CARE's mission to the president, who supervises CARE director Jenny Hegland. CARE officers and Steering Committee members all serve as volunteers. They also make up CARE's Unmet Needs Table, which has the responsibility for deciding how CARE resources are distributed to those with unmet needs.

CARE is helping to build a more resilient community by facilitating coordination between network partners, business and government leaders, and community volunteers, identifying unmet needs, and delivering long-term support to those most impacted by disaster. For more information, go to www.cnmi-care.com. (*CARE*)



Tinian International Airport
Car Rental Concessions
CPA-RFP-006-16




Request for Proposals

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the award of four (4) Rental Car Concessions at the Tinian International Airport.

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning November 3, 2015 at the CPA Administration Office, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of \$50.00 per package.

Proposals must be addressed to the Executive Director, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and received by the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) on **December 11, 2015**, by or **before 12:00 p.m.**, in order to be considered for the award. All proposals will be publicly opened on December 11, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., at the CPA Conference Room.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject proposals in accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations.


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Wiseman: Crime of burglary continues to have chilling effect

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McPeterson C. Tipengeni, a 23-year-old notorious burglar, was slapped with a 30-month prison term for burglarizing another house in Garapan to steal food.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman said that Tipengeni shows a high disregard for the sanctity of the home and peace of people by committing this crime while on probation for similar crimes. Tipengeni also shows a high disrespect for the law and the safety of the community, he added.

In a written order issued Monday, Wiseman said there is a substantial need to reflect

on the seriousness of these offenses, as the crime of burglary continues to have a negative and chilling effect for people of the CNMI.

Wiseman sentenced Tipengeni to three years imprisonment, all suspended except for 30 months—a period of two years and six months.

Tipengeni was given credit for time served. He is expected to be released from prison on Nov. 8, 2017.

Upon his release, he will be placed on probation for three years, during which time he is to stay away and have no contact with the victim and New Wave Dental.

Tipengeni was also ordered to perform 300 hours of community service, write a letter of

apology to the victim, and pay a \$100 assessment fee plus probation fee.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Tipengeni with a count of burglary. The OAG also filed a petition to revoke his probation in his 2013 burglary conviction. To resolve the two cases, Tipengeni pleaded guilty to burglary.

Tipengeni broke into a woman's home on May 5, 2015, on Saipan with the intent to take food. Police said the victim called 911 at 6:37pm after she saw Tipengeni in her backyard, looking into her kitchen window. She shouted at Tipengeni, who then immediately climbed over the fence

to the other side of the house. The victim said she also saw Tipengeni trying to enter her house the night before.

Acting chief prosecutor Emily Cohen recommended the maximum sentence of three years in prison. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer recommended six months.

Wiseman noted that Tipengeni has two prior criminal convictions for criminal trespass and disturbing the peace.

Tipengeni was sentenced in September 2013 to nine months in prison for burglarizing a hotel staff housing in China Town, Garapan, in the early morning hours of New

Year's Day in 2013, traumatizing a 13-year-old girl.

Several months ago Tipengeni had another conviction for disturbing the peace, although he was charged with burglary.

Wiseman said Tipengeni has unlawfully entered the home of three different persons since 2013, the last while he was on probation. He said the latest victim has had her home entered twice by Tipengeni at the very least.

"Such an intrusion had to be a traumatic event for anyone," the judge said.

Meyer had argued that Tipengeni deserves a fair sentence in view of his life circumstances—he is homeless, kicked out of his home for conflicts with his family and did illegal things

to exist on the streets.

"Does this mean we should have compassion for his claimed situation at the substantial harm and cost to the people of this community by having strangers enter their homes unlawfully?" Wiseman asked.

He said the court deems the safety and peace of the people in the sanctity of their homes to far outweigh any problems Tipengeni may have in his life situation, which he was and is control of.

Wiseman said Tipengeni is now about 23 years old, was adjudicated in a juvenile case for receiving stolen property and, beginning six years later, was convicted of crimes in three different cases.

Notorious burglar gets 30-month prison term

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Nov. 25, from 11am to 3pm. The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Faral-

lon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. W-517 is an irregular polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

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Request for Proposals

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the award of two (2) Rental Car Concessions at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning November 3, 2015 at the CPA Administration Office, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of \$50.00 per package.

Proposals must be addressed to the Executive Director, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and received by the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) on **December 11, 2015**, by or **before 12:00 p.m.**, in order to be considered for the award. All proposals will be publicly opened on December 11, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., at the CPA Conference Room.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject proposals in accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

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FEMA slowly demobilizing immediate presence

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is slowly demobilizing their presence on Saipan, with the volunteer-led Community Advocates for Recovery Efforts taking on more and more of the recovery efforts.

"Some FEMA staff have already left the island. The joint field office will close on Dec. 18, while the majority of the programs will transition by Dec. 15," according to FEMA Pacific Area Office Ben Curran.

He said that FEMA will continue to be involved in the recovery efforts and that the regional office will have a representative visiting Saipan periodically. He said that transition plans will be finalized soon.

According to the latest FEMA statistics, 4,777 applications have been approved for individual assistance amounting to over \$24 million approved. This amount is divided by total housing assistance in the

amount of \$16.6 million and "other needs" assistance in the amount of \$7.4 million.

FEMA said that \$1.6 million in funding for disaster case management is in the works for approval.

As the FEMA team demobi-

lizes their immediate presence here on the island, AmeriCorps, which has been at the forefront of team leadership training and debris removal, will also be leaving after over 2,400 volunteer hours of service. *(Daisy Demapan)*

Salvation Army gearing up for holidays

The Salvation Army has lined up several events this holiday season, with a special focus on the needs of those still recovering from Typhoon Soudelor.

For the annual Thanksgiving dinner, ministry leader Wayne Gillespie said that families in

need have been identified for their outreach efforts.

"Everyone is welcome to walk in to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner but we want to bring food to the families in need," he said, adding that their team also needs volunteer delivery drivers

for families unable to make it to their location.

Gillespie said there are many avenues for volunteering this year including the annual Red Kettle season that will take place everyday except Sundays at select outlets. For anyone interested, the shifts are only two hours long and are a great way

to spread holiday cheer, he said.

"Our annual toy drive is still ongoing; books, board games, toys, CDs, basketballs all make good gifts, all of which will be donated to Karidat," he said.

For more information on how you can volunteer or seek assistance, call 483-0885. *(Daisy Demapan)*

Tang insists Settlement Fund is a non-profit, tax exempt entity

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang has requested the federal court to confirm her position that the Settlement Fund is a non-profit, tax exempt entity under CNMI law.

Tang recently sought a legal opinion from CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan to affirm her interpretation and understanding of the Settlement Fund's status as a non-profit, tax exempt entity.

Tang said that Manibusan declined to render a legal opinion as the Settlement Fund "does not fall within the scope of representation," presumably because it is not a CNMI government agency.

The trustee discussed the tax exempt issue in her report on the status of the Settlement Fund and in her letter to Manibusan that she filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week.

According to Tang, the audit for the Settlement Fund for fiscal year 2014 by Ernst & Young began in January 2015 and has been completed.

However, Tang said, the completion of the audit has been delayed because of a disagreement between the CNMI government and the Settlement Fund on the issue of whether the Settlement Fund is a non-profit tax exempt entity.

In her letter to Manibusan

dated Nov. 2, 2015, Tang said the Settlement Fund serves a purely public purpose as it was created to preserve the Settlement Class' constitutional rights to accrued retirement benefits under Article III, Section 20 of the CNMI Constitution, and to ensure that such benefits are not diminished or impaired.

Tang said the Settlement Fund's purpose is not to make a profit.

Quoting Settlement Fund acting administrator Lillian Pangelinan, Tang said the Retirement Fund does indeed invest much of its capital and consult with third-party experts in order to accumulate a larger reserve of funds.

However, Tang said, the Retirement Fund's main objective, according to Pangelinan, is not to make a profit for those who contribute to the Fund, and thus have an ownership interest in it.

The purpose of engaging in commercial activities, Pangelinan said, is to ensure that there is enough money to cover annuity payments that are presently due.

Tang said the tax exemption should equally apply to the Settlement Fund because it is a "creature" of the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

She said oversight of the Settlement Fund lies entirely and exclusively with the District Court, which appointed her to serve as trustee, and to oversee and run the Settlement Fund.

DPS sets sobriety checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoint on Dec. 5 and 6, 2015.

On Dec. 5, a Saturday, the first setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan by Taro Sue Store, on the northbound lane, from 8pm to 9:15pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, in front of Triple J Wholesale, on the northbound lane, from 10:30pm to 11:45pm.

On Dec. 6, a Sunday, the first setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to the residence of the late Dr. Benusto Kaipat, on the southbound lane, from 6pm to 7:45pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan, by Joeten Commercial Building, from 8pm to 9:15pm.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

In addition, police will be conducting laser speed enforcement along various highways.

For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Macaranas at (670) 483-5818. *(DPS)*

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CUC to lose senior engineer to Alaska

By **FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON**
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A senior engineer who is on loan to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be leaving the island soon.

Brian Bearden, who is a lieutenant commander of the U.S. Public Health Service, will be moving to Fairbanks, Alaska.

Bearden is sponsored and employed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is commissioned by the Public Health Service.

"Public Health Service, they want us to move around a bit, we can't stay in the same position forever," said Bearden, who was part of a Public Health Service team sent to the CNMI to help CUC.

"I'm the last one remaining. It got complicated with EPA at the time, they were temporarily shut down, they were unable to send an officer down here a couple of years so that kind of resulted in the situation. Now they can do that again, so they are looking at bringing back at least one more public service officer to replace me," he added.

Bearden will be providing

engineering support to the native Alaskan organization Tanana Chiefs Conference on the operations and management of the 30 villages, including their wastewater.

Bearden served as acting chief engineer in 2012 during which they were able to achieve 100 percent 24-hour water service on Saipan for about two weeks.

"That was probably the best



Bearden

thing that I was involved with at CUC," Bearden said.

Bearden has been in the CNMI for 20 years and also served for more than 12 years at the Division of Environmental Quality, now Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

Acting CUC executive director John Riegel said Bearden's departure will be felt in the corporation.

"His absence is going to be huge. It will really be felt, widespread. He's a really strong producer, technically capable and his institution knowledge goes back 20 years," Riegel said.

He added that they are working on seeking a replacement for his position.

"I would like to get another commissioned officer here from EPA. Whether that's fruitful or not, we'll see," Riegel said.

HS graduates urged to participate in Saturday's Cash for College workshop

The Northern Marianas College is asking parents of recent high school graduates to encourage their son or daughter to take advantage of the services offered at Saturday's Cash for College workshop.

The aim of the workshop is to assist students and their parents to maximize scholarship opportunities that are available for those

seeking a college education at NMC or at other postsecondary institutions. Many students who have attended previous Cash for College workshops are now receiving thousands of dollars to advance their education.

The free workshop will be held on Nov. 28, 2015, Saturday, at Building A at NMC's As Terlaje campus. It is open to anyone in

the community who would like assistance in finding money for college—whether they are recent high school graduates or not. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am to 3pm.

Participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing

especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid, and the CNMI Scholarship.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop

participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid passport, birth certificate, or green card), at least three official transcripts, signed 2014 1040 tax form (2014 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes), proof of CNMI residency for 2014 and 2015 (for example, CNMI 1040 tax form, Employment Verification from your employer, Of-

ficial Transcripts, Voters Certification, etc.)

The Cash for College workshop is made possible by the financial support of the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant program.

For additional information, visit marianas.edu or contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email daisy.propst@marianas.edu. (NMC)

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Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Refugees, not political pawns

This week Americans will sit around overflowing dinner tables and stuff themselves in celebration of how Native Americans greeted the Pilgrims, who came here as religious refugees from England. Think about that within the context of the current demonization of Muslim refugees from Syria and Iraq.

The House last week voted to suspend the federal resettlement program for refugees from that war zone over fears that Islamic State has salted the human tide—4 million people and growing—with terrorists targeting the United States. The Senate is expected to take up the bill next month, and President Obama has rightly pledged to veto the measure if it gets to his desk.

Given that political posturing is the way House Republicans legislate these days, it would be easy to just shake our heads and move on. But nearly 50 Democrats joined them in last week's vote, either succumbing to fear or, worse, crassly politicizing the desperate straits of refugees. Facing that likely veto, some in the House want to embed the measure in a must-pass spending bill, setting the stage for a possible government shutdown. This misguided effort requires a forceful and unambiguous response: No.

The measure would suspend resettlement of Syrian and Iraqi refugees until new security checks are emplaced, and would require the heads of Homeland Security, the FBI and national intelligence to vouch for each person admitted. Under the current resettlement process, potential refugees come almost exclusively through referrals from the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, which vets their backgrounds before deciding which country to refer them to for resettlement. Those recommended to this country are then scrubbed by U.S. security officers through interviews overseas and biometric background checks, a process that can take up to two years. The Washington Post, citing a State Department spokesman, reported that "only about a dozen" of the nearly 785,000 refugees admitted to the U.S. since the September 2011 attacks have been arrested or deported for preexisting links to terrorism. None was from Syria. Three refugees have been convicted of abetting terror attacks elsewhere.

That's hardly sufficient grounds to indict the program. It's also hard to imagine Islamic State investing more than two years of a terrorist's time trying to con refugee officials when a forged passport could gain instant access—especially since getting referred for resettlement to the U.S. is like winning a lottery. The U.N. estimates that about 10 percent of the 3.2 million displaced Syrians need resettling, and the Obama administration has offered to take a small fraction—up to 10,000—in the next year. Those are pretty long odds to successfully plant a terrorist. And the measure pushed by Congress doesn't address the broader reality that the Paris attackers where overwhelmingly French citizens. Would lawmakers bar the door to European tourists as well?

Times of crisis require level heads and cool reasoning. Now would be a good time for elected leaders to begin showing some.

(c)2015 Los Angeles Times



On manners

At customer service in my bank, folks are asked to wait until their name is called as a sign-up sheet is provided for that purpose. One day, an Oriental lady rushed forward, not understanding the wait-and-be-called setup. She was graciously told to return to her seat when she tried to jump the queue. Flushed, she asserted that she wanted to throw her trash into one of the bins behind the customer service lady's table but was told to use the one provided for customers.

The lady did not understand why she was forbidden to go behind customer service (a Wal-Mart customer accosted an Oriental lady who jumped the queue) and, instead of locating the trash bin for customers, went to where the bank clients' fills up deposit and withdrawal slips and left her crumbled paper there.

I overnight in Incheon on occasion due to airline connection to Dong Bei but the hotel diner where I last stayed was far from the Suwon of '72 when I first went into Korea. Then, conference participants rushed to the front of the line ahead of others to get their food. They were *muksa nim*, religious personae slightly below the royalty in status, so I guess the office came with a privilege!

Queue, the word for the Qing's braided hair, is what one expects at the bus stop. My Honolulu bro gave me a whistle which I blow each time I get on the public bus in Shenyang as passengers scramble on who can edge-into-the-bus fastest. A queue was in order.

I live in Dong Bei where *Chao Tian* was part of the Yanbian Autonomous Region. Dong Bei straddles the provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning; a section was formerly of the old *Kogoryo* (where the name "Korea" derives from). Like the rest of Sinosphere, to queue is not an observed decorum there either. The aforementioned bank customer is fluent in *Annyang ha sa-yo!*

Seoul's accent is heard at the local IT&E office on Pale Arnold, mostly to complain loudly about landlines not working, or 4Gs wreaking havoc on smartphones. I requested an extension for my phone a month before and, knowing their overwhelming challenge to restore service, I thought it time to remind them. It took two hours to get an audience but I got the lineman to the office, who did not fancy an extension, moved the old unit to the new location. I won't join the *Hangul Saram* in complaint chorus.

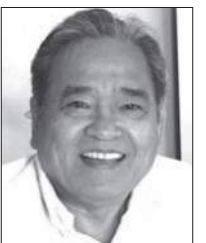
I walked from Oleai to the JP Center on the pathway after the P&R guys finally cut the downed branches and piled debris on the side from Soudelor's unleashed fury. Trash bins were a casualty among picnickers but people left trash piled like there were folks assigned to clean after them. There aren't any. Beer cans and plastic bottles in plastic bags are expected, not the strewn trash all over the place. Typhoon debris is understandable but trash is inexcusable.

China exclude human reach into plates of viand to be passed on

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



a rectangular table. This comes from the use of a lazy Susan that allow one to bring the desired dish to one's front at the flick of a finger. On stationary tables, I hand my plate to someone who dishes the desired food.

The reluctance to pass comes from food not to be touched by human hand. Chopstick's use is a reasonable tool, especially in the north where there is a shortage of water for washing hands. Wood for stoves is scarce in the Plains; the *wok* is designed to heat swiftly, and the stir-fry is cooked quickly. The chopstick does not require clean hands; a good dish is prepared so that a pick is bite size, consumed immediately. A meal is consumed with chopsticks at incredible speed.

A dish does not require spitting out indigestibles either, but when it does, the hand is not involved. One spews on the table or on the floor, unhygienic but quite acceptable, and in a restaurant, the table and floor are often a mess. In Korea in '72, it was even appreciated when one blew *heine* air in the dining table at someone's home after a meal because it meant a diner not only had enough but also was fully satisfied!

Manners are from one's upbringing. My mother forbade us to speak when our mouth was full, a China practice grating to ears. One did not slurp food, especially soup. In China's north, when it is steaming hot, the food is loudly devoured to cause air to buffer the otherwise unendurable heat of the food from the side of the mouth, noise widely broadcast in chorus. I was looked at strangely when instead of slurping I twirled my *mien* (noodles) on my spoon like I do with spaghetti.

My landlord asked when he learned I came from China: "Are they really that rude?" The driving style of the touring *Zhongguoren* on Saipan reportedly does not defer to pedestrians on the road when they cross while the vehicular traffic stands still on blinkers.

I bought bags of fruits, some rotten but well hidden, three at Twins in Dandan, two at Payless in CK, and one at San Jose grocery in Oleai. Not manners, just conscienceless greed.

Spitting chewed betel nuts, the red blotch on the sidewalk? Yes. Manners. It matters.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Recipe for deeper mess!

Decisions made usually come from our individual self, done either hastily or thoughtfully. We follow through to figure out whether it's good or bad. Some are easy while others are harder to understand with confidence. In the process, we sometime sacrifice a better decision over instant gratification.

For instance, in the last election we fell for free utility vouchers to the tune of \$10 million. The instant deal blurred our vision struggling to understand what it all meant. Well, we fell for it. It granted real time influence to the donor to dictate any and all policy decisions it wishes from what has obviously become a servile administration. You toyed swinging to and fro on an issue that made you part of the larger problem.

This relationship—government and private firm—is what's known as cronyism, the seat of corruption. You pick winners and losers willfully as to sacrifice the interest of other well-meaning investors. We said “no” to casino twice via a plebiscite but it changed instantly by a bilateral decision between the administration and the Legislature last year. You quiz what's the essence of the direct voice of “we the people” in a plebiscite in this case? Isn't it because we can't trust legislators?

Today I see the troubled expressions of our people struggling to free themselves from familial pain and mind-numbing hardship. It's good to revisit where it all started. It began with indecisions of Me, Myself, and I. You now pretend you weren't a part of the mess.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who is corrupted?

This is in response to Patty N. Cabrera's letter to the editor. Who exactly are you calling corrupt? In response to an honorable man's words of advice, you accuse him of corruption? Mr. Jose S. Dela Cruz, the man who served us as the first chief justice of the CNMI, wrote an article, (*“Corruption in the CNMI government: A worsening crisis”*) and within, he enclosed sound advice as seen from his standpoint. You stated that his opinion is “riddled with ignorance, speculation, and misinformation.” While you have presented facts and statements that, from a distance, seem legitimate, you have failed to realize the whole of Mr. Dela Cruz's argument. His writing was mainly focused on the dubious work of our government, not on Best Sunshine itself.

Since the inception of the CNMI, every few years there have been cases where government officials were tried and sent to prison because of their “corrupt” antics during office, and since the last fiasco performed by former governor Benigno Fitial, the local government has been engaged in many “questionable” transactions. It is normal for anyone to feel a need to be cautious in such trying times, especially considering the recent disasters the islands have faced. Mr. Dela Cruz's advice “to be on our guard” stands firm. You, on the other hand, seem more fixated on preserving Best Sunshine's name. Rather than opposing his main argument of possible corruption lying within our local government, you went on and specifically argued on the behalf of Best Sunshine, argued in an attempt to solidify their position.

As if not to waste time, you readily branded the former chief justice as “corrupted.” You even went as far as to state that he was “making assumptions,” “building mistrust,” and in his supposed “ignorance” he was “misinforming” the people. The position of chief justice is appointed to those who show outstanding moral character and by age and experiences are placed as the presiding member of the Supreme Court. Although no longer serving, he was the *first* chief justice, and as such carries a more tempered mind than most. It was his job to question and root out injustice. I doubt he of all people would fall under the category of “corrupted.” You, however, once again running past the main argument, attacked him, attempting to prove his statements incorrect, but only succeeded in demonstrating your own lack of understanding, as you relentlessly argued on behalf of Best Sunshine. Your article argued for the wrong subject. If you looked deeper, you would have noticed that the gist of his letter, the core meaning, was “caution when looking to the government.” You assumed his words were meant as a challenge against Best Sunshine. You assumed, and as you yourself put it, “Experience and wisdom is great, but making assumptions in a public forum merely adds fuel to the fire...”

Enfin Serafin!

Alexandro ‘Colonel’ Sablan
Dandan, Saipan

You actively placed it right in your own living room. Now you're saying, “Nah, this isn't what I bargained for?” Well, what did you bargain for last November when you changed your vote? Do you really think your indecision could help matters now?

I could have hopped on the gravy train of instant gratification but opted otherwise. I honestly don't believe that the gambling industry is the future of our children. After table dealing, what other professional level jobs are there for generations of our children? Do we now do away with the scholarship program and funnel every high school graduate for training at BS?

You may have felt good with “biba” and “beaaaa” satisfied half drunk. Sober, you find out that your expectation has gone the other way. Now you ask “how come”? Try to honestly answer it yourself!

It matters to me that we turn our livelihood down the path of better economic opportunities over the Republican toxic-loaded ship that has sunk our quality of life. There's no leadership to turn the economic depression around. It feeds into poverty and finally, corruption. Nothing is going to change. It's too comfortable for Republicans now laying eggs in their nest. What about you and the future of your children?

The economy is in shambles. It isn't a hard term. Bring it down to your family level, e.g., family income and wellbeing. You will instantly see where it has taken you. It's down the path of more hardship and misery. This is because the people you've elected into office are at best, clueless. Confused, they have done a lot of “nothing.”

In brief, we can't continue blaming others for decisions that came from the three people we know best of Me, Myself, and I. The whole issue begins and ends with the self! No intention to insult your intelligence but perhaps there's a dire need to jolt your senses into facing real reality.

Growth: Fast and furious

The Marpi land issue has its own upside: forced a slowdown approach to development. It ensures (at least for now) that “we the people” filled with a truly unique cultural tradition aren't necessar-

Another good reason to accept Syrian refugees

Last week's vote by the House of Representatives to impose additional restrictions on the admission of Syrian refugees into the United States was a bad idea.

It feels like a not-very-well-considered overreaction to the shocking terrorist attacks in Paris on Nov. 13. Overreaction rarely results in good policy, and it's deadly to perspective and to the facts.

For example, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's position was clear and emphatic: An absolute “no” to the 250,000 Syrian refugees who President Barack Obama wants to admit. Actually the number is only 10,000, and only a small percentage of those are males of military age. So much for facts.

And perspective? Canada has committed to accepting 25,000 Syrian refugees, and Germany may absorb 800,000 by the end of the year.

Further, since the 1970s, America has welcomed 1.3 million immigrants from Vietnam; few would argue that they have not been a splendid asset.

As we say often, we are a nation of immigrants, and our reluctance to accept refugees from Syria undermines that welcoming, humanitarian history, as well as our international leadership among Western nations that appear to be more compassionate than we are.

The position of those who oppose accepting Syrian refugees—including a majority of state governors—isn't entirely irrational. The Paris attacks are a sobering reminder of the danger of terrorism.

Further, the bill passed by the House last week does not bar Syrian refugees; it merely requires that the director of the FBI, the secretary of Homeland Security and the director of national intelligence certify that each refugee from Syria or Iraq is not a terrorist. How much of an obstacle this legislation would add to the current 18-month vetting process is uncertain.

But objection to accepting Syrian refugees is divided into three parts: fear, politics and prudence. I'll let you assign the proportion of each.

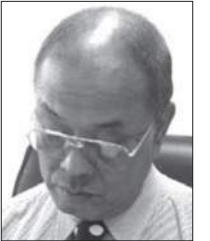
Clearly, though, politics is at work here in a big way. Nearly 50 Democrats voted for the House bill, but, by far, the most outspoken objectors are Republicans, particularly the presidential candidates, who recognize that they are well-served by nearly any measure that makes Obama look bad or that encourages a sense of crisis and fear.

The fear, of course, is legitimate. What happened in Paris—

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



ily pulled off the umbilical cord of what made our way of life unique as a people.

Development is fine if it is done at our own pace based on thoughtfully reviewed issues meriting timely decisions. The casino industry includes what's known as “integrated resort,” a huge project far larger in size and scope than what we've seen here and Guam. Why does it matter that we domesticate the issue?

The size of the project would force what's known in development lingo as “fast and furious.” It means the local government must scramble to find millions of dollars for water, power, sewer and roads where the planned facility would be built. We don't have the money for it. Hell, we're now using CIP funds to pay CUC the more than \$30 million government agencies owe on a cumulative basis.

The Republic of Belau is a good example of the displacement of its people that involve the Chinese buying up everything. They even bring in their own tourist buses, running local Palauans out of business. It isn't necessarily a healthy partnership.

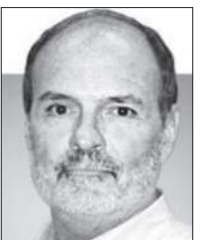
Before we lose it all let's slam the brakes, now! No, we don't want to lose the light of our candle in the middle of a superstorm. This is our only chance to take back and retain what's ours!

Official snore: An elected official snoozes and hopes he could find something constructive to do after his long siesta. I like this group because their snore is usually an infectious thing—if you're standing anywhere near them, you'd snore too! You also get hit and begin your rendition of long yawns and finely tuned snooze. Boy, they even snore with unique musical melodies that could be scary too if there's an abrupt stop or break. Is it sleep apnea? Eh, wake up the guy before he denies his brain oxygen!

By JOHN M. CRISP

Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, teaches in the English Department at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas. Readers may send him email at jcrisp@delmar.edu.



and in Mali a week later—could happen anywhere, including the United States.

The proper response to fear, however, is prudence, rather than panic. No one is suggesting opening our nation to a flood of Syrian refugees that might include a few terrorists. But when legitimate refugee status can be reliably established, the U.S. should do its share to help alleviate the suffering.

After all, we're talking mostly about women, old people and children, who without help are likely condemned to a miserable, short life. Rejection is an odd position for a putative Christian nation. In fact, I think Jesus said something like, “Let the little children come unto me.”

Of course, the safest course is to keep everyone out. But here's another good reason to accept the Syrian refugees:

The only solution for the Islamic State is its richly deserved extermination. In a more just world, the Islamic State's Muslim neighbors would solve this problem. In our world, significant numbers of American troops will likely be required. Republican presidential candidates are already calling for ground troops. Democrats are more deliberate, but only one Paris-style attack on American soil stands between us and a new war in the Middle East.


It will be easier to win this war—though at great cost and with much spillage of blood—than to sort through the chaos that will follow it. The Muslim world will still be deeply fractured. In fact, another war in the Middle East is unlikely to solve the long-term problems, and in many respects, the world's conditions may look worse after the war than before.

So strong moral leadership will still be called for to put the world back together. It would be a shame if we squander our claim to moral authority and compassionate humanitarianism just to keep 10,000 desperate Syrians out of our country.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼77°


THURSDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲87° ▼77°


FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°


SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

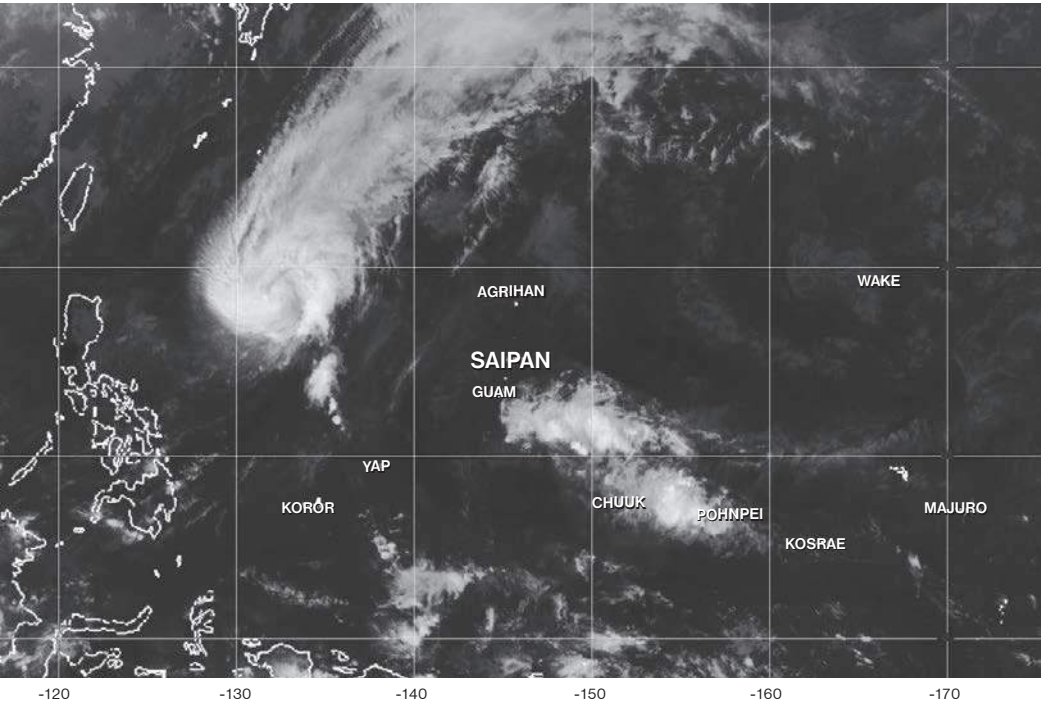
SUNDAY



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image




PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon In-fa (27W) is centered 750 miles northwest of Yap at 19N133E moving northeast at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph. Heavy showers and thunderstorms near the center of In-fa are west of a line from 17N134E to 21N137E elsewhere. Extensive cloudiness along with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are northeast of a line from 21N137E to 21N130E to beyond 25N and scattered showers with a few thunderstorms are northwest of Yap within 50 miles of a line from 17N134E to 12N136E. For information on Typhoon In-fa, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in an area from near Guam southeastward across Chuuk State to near Pohnpei within 150 miles of a line from 13N147E to 6N157E. A near-equatorial trough is causing widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near the equator south-east of Yap or south of 4N from 139E to 143E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲28	▼17
Hong Kong	Windy	▲74	▼59
Honolulu	Windy	▲81	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲61	▼43
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲93	▼75
Melbourne	Windy	▲64	▼47
Miami	Windy	▲79	▼71
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼46
Osaka	Showers	▲55	▼43
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲50	▼40
Pusan	Windy	▲48	▼31
Rome	Cloudy	▲51	▼47
Salem	Sunny	▲44	▼26
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼43
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲36	▼22
Tokyo	Showers	▲55	▼46
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲55	▼38



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
7:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
6:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:16 PM	5:18 AM
Thursday	6:11 PM	6:19 AM
Friday	7:08 PM	7:20 AM
Saturday	8:05 PM	8:18 AM
Sunday	9:00 PM	9:13 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2015														
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS								
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN								
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily					
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily					
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7					
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA2920	12:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota					
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily					
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily					
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)								
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6					
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN								
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6					
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN								
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily			DL298	10:35am	3:15pm	Daily					
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN								
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1			7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6					
OZ626	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7					
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily			OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7					
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7			OZ625	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6					
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5			OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily					
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6			7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily					
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7											
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN								
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6					
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN								
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7					
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN								
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6					
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN								
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5					
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN								
OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN			UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM					
OZ626/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM					
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN					
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN					
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN					
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM					
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM			UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota					
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM			UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM			UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM					
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM			UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota					
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN								
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN					
OZ626/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN					
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN			OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN					
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM					
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM					
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM			UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota					
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM			UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM					
						UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM					

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.											
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA					
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat			
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily						
			9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily						
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily						
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily						

IT&E officially launches faster mobile network



DAISY DEMAPAN

IT&E corporate officials and acting governor Ralph DLG Torres join in the ribbon cutting for the official launching of the fastest mobile network in the CNMI.

By **DAISY DEMAPAN**
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IT&E officially launched its faster Long-Term Evolution network yesterday with a ribbon cutting ceremony symbolizing the company's commitment to the community in improving telecommunications services.

"What we've done today is a symbol of IT&E's commitment to the community. We have spent over \$1 million with this project to provide high-speed data. It is the first step in our \$30-million investment over the next five years [and] we're not

done," according to chief operating officer John Compton.

IT&E has installed six fully operational sites that have been strategically placed around the island to provide IT&E's wireless customers with premier 4G LTE wireless service. These selected areas are Garapan, Gualo Rai, Kannat Tabla, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, and Mt. Tapochau.

In terms of improving Internet service, Compton said, "as you can see [referring to ongoing roadside digging], our team is still installing fiber optic cables [to increase the quality of their overall services] but today,

we celebrate this first step."

According to Compton, IT&E has doubled the capacity of 4G, which is inclusive of voice and data to be much faster and robust than ever before.

"The LTE network is now at the same standard as the U.S. The LTE network has also freed up the capacity of the 4G network," he says, as customers move toward faster LTE speeds.

The IT&E team is also inviting the community to check out their Black Friday deals. They'll be open on Thanksgiving for the first time in its history from 6am to 8pm. Free power banks and other items will be given to customers in the first two hours.

For more information on the new network or how to configure your mobile phone, call 682-4483.



DAISY DEMAPAN

IT&E chief operating officer John Compton speaks during a ribbon cutting ceremony as part of IT&E's official launch of its long-term evolution network. Compton says the launch represents the company's commitment to improving the community's telecommunications as part of a five-year \$30-million plan.

Harbor studies move forward; local match found—Torres

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Inos administration has found local funds to match federal dollars that will be used to conduct feasibility studies for repair and improvements to the Tinian and Rota harbors.

According to acting governor Ralph DLG Torres on Monday, some \$552,000 from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the administrative accounts of Torres' office and Gov. Eloy S. Inos' office have been identified for this purpose.

This local match to federal fiscal years 2015 and 2016 dollars now allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move ahead with the study.

In an interview two weeks ago, Derek Chow, Army Corps chief of the Civil and Public Works Branch, noted how the reported large number of close-outs—hazardous wave conditions that prevent barges from entering the Rota harbor—has called for additional upgrades. He also noted that the Tinian harbor's breakwater—a sheet pile with rubble around it—is "very deteriorated and provides

minimal protection" for vessels.

The harbor feasibility study is a three-year study with a total cost to the CNMI government of about \$1 million, Chow said. This amount can be broken up into annual increments.

"We've had federal money [for fiscal year 2015] but we haven't had local money, but as soon as we get their money we'll be able to get our 2015 and 2016 dollars," Chow told *Saipan Tribune*.

In September, the Inos administration signed an agreement with the Army Corps on the feasibility, design, and construction phases of the project. Congressional authorization is needed to get from the feasibility to the construction phases.

According to Chow, the feasibility study refers to the engineering and conceptual design for repairs. This will include cost estimates, economic analysis, environmental studies and analysis, and potential environmental impact statement, he said.

The report will recommend to U.S. Congress whether the repairs and upgrades are worthy of federal investment or not, he added.

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Pump failure causes multi-village water outage

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the villages of Kannat Tabla, Chalan Kiya, Fina Sis, and Chalan Laulau experienced a temporary water service interruption yesterday when one of the booster pumps serving the Isley well field

went offline late Monday evening.

CUC Operations personnel were able to repair the booster pump early Tuesday morning and the flow of water from the well field to the Kannat Tabla reservoir resumed soon after. Customers in

the affected areas did not receive water during the repair and filing process due to low tank levels. Water service will resume this Wednesday morning once tank levels have been restored.

The Isley well field is in the

vicinity of the Saipan International Airport and consists of a total of 60 wells, 19 of which produce water that is pumped to the Kannat Tabla reservoir via Isley Booster 1. The remaining wells produce water that is pumped to

the Dandan reservoir (via Isley Booster 2), and the Isley reservoir, which serves CUC customers from San Antonio to San Jose.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4CUC (4282). (CUC)

DPS kicks off 4Ds prevention campaign for the holidays

The Department of Public Safety kicked off Monday its CNMI Drunk, Drugged, Distracted and Drowsy Driving prevention campaign for the holiday season.

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres signed a proclamation designating the period of Nov. 28, 2015 to Jan. 2, 2016, for the 4Ds prevention campaign.

As the people enter into the holiday season, many residents will be celebrating with friends and family throughout the island, Torres said. "While we are celebrating, it is important to be safe and responsible," he said.

DPS will be out in full force this season to ensure that drivers abide by laws and protect the lives of all who share the roads.

"If you are planning to drink, please designate a driver that can take you and your loved ones home safely and responsibly. Let's do our part to ensure that this holiday season is fun, enjoyable and, most of all, safe," Torres said.

DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero urged the community to join the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign from Nov. 28 to Jan. 2. (Ferdie de la Torre)

GMS Falcons shine again at forensic



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School officials and teachers proudly pose in this picture with their winning students at the recent Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at Chacha Middle School.

Green Meadow School Falcons once again enjoyed the glory of bagging several awards at the second Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at Chacha Middle School in Kagman last Nov. 7.

The school's administration is grateful for the support and cooperation of the students, their parents, teachers and staff. The untiring dedication of the teachers and coaches is greatly appreciated by the whole GMS family.

K-2 DIVISION

■ 1st Place in Choral Speaking B: Alexia Rubia, Isabella Mallari, Jacqueline Cepeda, Nelisa Nicole Acaba, Marvie Angelique Llaga (Kinder-5)

■ 1st Place in Choral Speaking A: Lvinna Palma, Lord Angelo Cosmo, Yu Yan Wang, Zaira Angela Llaga, Leidy Audry Fhaye Agacoscos (2nd grade)

■ 1st Place in Reader's Forum Master's A: Tristan E. Yanto (1st grade)

■ 1st Place in Impromptu C: Nelisa Nicole Acaba (Kinder-5)

■ 1st Place in Reader's Forum B: Alexia Rubia (Kinder-5)

■ 2nd Place in Duo: Isabella Mallari and Rhett Garth Agbayani (Kinder-5)

■ 3rd Place in Duo: Paula Angela Bernardo and Loise Elesha Manansala (1st grade)

■ 4th Place in Reader's Forum Master's A: Jeane Jiaqi Merjilla (1st grade)

■ 4th Place in Impromptu B: John Matthew Ellama (K5)

■ 5th Place in Humorous Interpretation: Alexa Ralene Paniganiban (1st Grade)

3-5 DIVISION

■ 1st Place in Choral Speaking: Solana Arro Hunter, Nichole Llaga, Chealzka Navarro, Nelson Isaac Acaba, Jasmyne Tolentino (3rd grade)

■ 1st Place in Dramatic Interpretation A: Ariel Allysa Legaspi (4th grade)

■ 2nd Place in Reader's Forum A: Angel Manalo (3rd grade)

■ 2nd Place in Choral Speaking: John Cavinta, Buien Joseph Din, Santino Malonzo, Raiden Jay Roque-

lara, Carmelo Guiler Banzagale (3rd grade)

■ 3rd Place in Humorous Interpretation: Prince Christopher Manalo (5th grade)

■ 4th Place in Duo: Jazmyn Phoeme Lopez and Raeka Sherreen Lantin (5th grade)

■ 5th Place in Choral Speaking: Cloe Ferlyn Lagmay, Raeka Sherreen Lantin, Jazmyn Phoeme Lopez, Iyana San Nicolas (5th grade)

■ 5th Place in Reader's Forum Master's C: Christian Bhert Daniel (5th grade)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to our champ! We are so proud of you, Kelvin. Love you always, from Mommy, Daddy, and the Cubs.



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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Available:

Personal Assistant to the CEO

CEO of a multi-national lending and real estate investment business seeks a detail-oriented, outgoing, and highly-motivated individual for the role of personal assistant. The ideal candidate will have a college degree and excellent communication and organizational skills. Fluency in spoken and written English is required; prior experience in a similar role or in banking and real estate industries will be strongly considered. This position will be based in the Mariana Islands, with occasional travel required. Salary and benefits to be determined based on qualifications and experience.

Interested candidates should submit a CV, cover letter explaining your interest in the position and at least one writing sample in English to: CEO Assistant Search, Bridge Capital, PMB 29 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950; or by e-mail to assistant.search@bccnmi.com.

No phone calls please.

Man gets 3-month sentence for beating man at a poker parlor

Techuo Yleisar was slapped with a three-month prison term for beating up a man for no apparent reason in front of a poker arcade in western Garapan last March.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced the 48-year-old Yleisar last week to one year in prison, all suspended except for three months, for assault and battery.

Yleisar was given credit for time served. He was allowed to start serving his sentence on Jan. 2, 2016. He is expected to complete the prison term on March 26, 2016, after which he will be placed on supervised probation for two years.

Yleisar was ordered to pay \$25 court costs and \$200 probation service fee, and complete 200 hours of community service.

Yleisar was ordered to pay \$539.19 in restitution to the victim, Nahidul Islam. He was required to undergo anger management counseling and complete any recommended treatment by the Community Guidance Center.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Yleisar with assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea deal. The other charges were dropped.

SHEFA sets submission deadlines

For both new and returning applicants of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, the application deadline for spring 2016 semester is Dec. 1, 2015.

Deadline for the submission of the memorandum of agreement and supporting documents is on Feb. 29, 2016.

Applications can also be faxed to (670) 235-5996 or emailed to saipanshefa@gmail.com.

Ongoing recipients do not need to reapply for this spring term. However, you must submit your official transcript and class schedule for spring 2016 before Feb. 29, 2016.

SHEFA also provides financial assistance for eligible Saipan residents enrolled at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

For more information and inquiries about the SHEFA program, visit the SHEFA website, www.saipanshefa.net, or contact the office by e-mail at saipanshefa@gmail.com or contact@saipanshefa.net. You can also add us on Facebook, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA), for program updates and announcements. Office hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, except legal holidays. Temporary phone number is (670) 235-5995 and fax number is (670) 235-5996. **(SHEFA)**

Police said that Yleisar punched and kicked Islam several times in and outside the 777 Poker in Garapan on March 6, 2015.

Islam was bleeding from his nose, his left eyebrow had a cut and his lips were swollen when a police officer responded to the scene. Islam also complained of pain on the hips and back, police said.

Police detective Dee Liza S. Udui stated in her report that two police officers were dispatched to a disturbance incident at 777 Poker in western Garapan at 3:42pm.

One responding police officer saw Yleisar sitting on the stairs to the second floor of a restaurant behind Kings Club in west-

ern Garapan.

Yleisar told police that Islam had borrowed money from him and that Islam refused to talk to him and denied owing any money. He accused Islam of lying after seeing him playing poker. Yleisar said he got upset and punched Islam.

Islam, however, told police that it was the first time he met Yleisar. He said Yleisar punched and kicked him for no apparent reason.

Islam said the defendant only stopped beating him up when he noticed that a lot of people were seeing the attack.

Islam added that during the beating, he lost \$572 cash and that his sunglasses worth \$275 were damaged. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



DAISY DEMAPAN

WINNING RECIPE

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Gabriele Colombo and 9-year-old Claire Park demonstrate how to prepare her winning recipe of Rota sweet potatoes and grilled chicken breast to promote the Healthy Lunchtime Challenge & Kids' State Dinner, which is a program sponsored by first lady Michelle Obama.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Manager (1)

Must have 5 years related experience and /or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. The primary responsibilities of the General Manager include directly supervising the restaurant employees, managing operations in the front and back of the house with a high concentration on profitability, safety, sanitation, and sales growth, while constantly maintaining company's standards of quality and service. Responsibilities also include developing managers and team members. General Manager must be able to work a flexible schedule, which include weekends, holidays, and late nights. Additional responsibilities include developing and maintaining professional functional working relationship with restaurant hourly employees and the franchise organization. Managing the restaurant floor, focusing on regular contact with guests. Handling guest complaints in a professional and timely manner. Carrying out supervisory duties such as recruitment and hiring, training, directing workflow, appraisal performance, rewarding and disciplining employees, and resolving complaints and problems. Completing required reports and paperwork accurately and on time. Maintaining personnel files with appropriate employment and legal documents.

Manager (2)

Must have 2-4 years related experience and /or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. The primary responsibilities of the Manager is assisting the General Manager in directly supervising the restaurant employees, managing operations in the front and back of the house with a high concentration on profitability, safety, sanitation, and sales growth, while constantly maintaining company's standards of quality and service. Responsibilities also include assisting the General Manager in developing team members. Managers must be able to work a flexible schedule, which include weekends, holidays, and late nights. Additional responsibilities include developing and maintaining professional functional working relationship with restaurant hourly employees and the franchise organization. Managing the restaurant floor, focusing on regular contact with guests. Handling guest complaints in a professional and timely manner. Carrying out supervisory duties such as recruitment and hiring, training, directing workflow, appraisal performance, rewarding and disciplining employees, and resolving complaints and problems.

This invitation is for U.S. Citizens, US Green Card holders, and FAS work authorized citizens only. Email resumes with valid police clearance to jonedera34@gmail.com or fax to (671)647-2662, ATTN: Pacific Pancakes CNMI LLC



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 15-052

Opening Date: **Friday, November 20, 2015**
Closing Date: **Thursday, December 03, 2015**

Trades Foreperson (Electrician)

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : \$20,826-\$28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

For minimum requirements and full description, stop by or contact the Human Resource Office or visit our website at www.cucgov.org.

JVA No. 15-053

Opening Date: **Friday, November 20, 2015**
Closing Date: **Thursday, December 03, 2015**

Trades Technician (Electrician)

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : \$20,826-\$28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : Seven (7)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

For minimum requirements and full description, stop by or contact the Human Resource Office or visit our website at www.cucgov.org.

JVA No. 15-054

Opening Date: **Friday, November 20, 2015**
Closing Date: **Thursday, December 03, 2015**

Trades Technician (Mechanic)

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : \$20,826-\$28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : Ten (10)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

For minimum requirements and full description, stop by or contact the Human Resource Office or visit our website at www.cucgov.org.

JVA No. 15-055

Opening Date: **Friday, November 20, 2015**
Closing Date: **Thursday, December 03, 2015**

Trades Technician (Diesel Power Plant Operator)

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : \$20,826-\$28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : Seven (7)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

For minimum requirements and full description, stop by or contact the Human Resource Office or visit our website at www.cucgov.org.

JVA No. 15-056

Opening Date: **Friday, November 20, 2015**
Closing Date: **Thursday, December 03, 2015**

Trades Assistant (Diesel Power Plant Operator)

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : \$16,742.00 per annum.
POSITIONS : Five (5)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

For minimum requirements and full description, stop by or contact the Human Resource Office or visit our website at www.cucgov.org.

JVA No. 15-057

Opening Date: **Friday, November 20, 2015**
Closing Date: **Thursday, December 03, 2015**

Warehouse Assistant

LOCATION : Warehouse, **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : \$14,704.00 per annum.
POSITIONS : Two (2).
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

For minimum requirements and full description, stop by or contact the Human Resource Office or visit our website at www.cucgov.org.

JVA No. 15-058

Opening Date: **Friday, November 20, 2015**
Closing Date: **Thursday, December 03, 2015**

Trades Assistant (Lineperson)

LOCATION : Power Division T&D, **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : \$16,742.00 per annum.
POSITIONS : One (1).
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

For minimum requirements and full description, stop by or contact the Human Resource Office or visit our website at www.cucgov.org.

JVA No. 15-059

Opening Date: **Friday, November 20, 2015**
Closing Date: **Thursday, December 03, 2015**

Administrative Technician

LOCATION : Power Division T&D, **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : \$20,826.00 per annum.
POSITIONS : One (1).
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

For minimum requirements and full description, stop by or contact the Human Resource Office or visit our website at www.cucgov.org.

JVA No. 15-060

Opening Date: **Friday, November 20, 2015**
Closing Date: **Thursday, December 03, 2015**

Trades Technician (Electric Meter Technician)

LOCATION : Power Division T&D, **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : \$20,826.00 per annum.
POSITIONS : Two (2).
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

For minimum requirements and full description, stop by or contact the Human Resource Office or visit our website at www.cucgov.org.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Nation

Stuck waiting: Ground delays at US airports on the rise

NEW YORK (AP)—On a recent morning, Delta Air Lines Flight 435 pushed back early from the gate at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. Passengers watched the safety video and settled in for a six-hour trip.

Then they waited. And waited.

Still within sight of the gate, their jet sat motionless due to airport congestion. It wasn't until 30 minutes after passengers buckled in that they were finally in the sky.

It's a scene playing out across the country. According to an Associated Press analysis, airplanes

spent 23 minutes and 32 seconds, on average, taxiing between gates and runways during the first nine months of the year. That's the longest it has been since the Bureau of Transportation Statistics started tracking taxi times in 1995 and a 50-second increase over last year's average.

For passengers, the rising delays add to the frustrations of travel. A plane might land early but then sit waiting for a gate to open up. Flights are still arriving "on time" but only because airlines have increased scheduled flying times to account for the added taxi



In this Nov. 21, 2014 file photo, a traveler sits as she waits for a flight at Midway International Airport in Chicago. AP

times. The Delta flight made it to the gate in San Francisco 10 minutes ahead of schedule despite the takeoff delays.

The creep in taxi times is attributed to a series of changes: massive runway construction projects at some of the nation's busiest airports; schedule changes that increase the number of flights at peak hours; and new, distant runways that relieve congestion but require more time to reach.

"It's death by a thousand cuts," says Vikram Krishnan, a

partner in the aviation practice of consultancy Oliver Wyman.

The problems on the ground are costing airlines dearly.

"Two, three, four, five minutes in a fleet of 500 planes a day is significant amounts of money," says aviation consultant Mike Boyd.

That translates into hundreds of millions of dollars extra in operating costs so far this year, according to AP calculations factoring in average operating costs including pilot and flight attendant salaries.

2 men charged with murder in killing of pastor's wife

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Authorities charged two young men with murder on Monday in the fatal shooting of a pastor's pregnant wife during a home invasion that happened after the minister left the couple's Indianapolis home without locking the front door.

Amanda Blackburn, 28, was found partially nude, with her underwear nearby and her shirt pulled up, lying in a pool of blood on her living room floor. She died one day after the Nov. 10 attack on Indianapolis' northwest side.

Her husband, Pastor Davey Blackburn, told police he had left the home's front door unlocked when he departed about 6 a.m. that morning to go to the gym and work out and returned home about 8:20 a.m. to find his wounded wife. The couple's 15-month-old son, Weston, was at home upstairs

in a crib but was not harmed in the attack.

Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry identified the two men charged with murder as Larry Jo Taylor Jr., 18, and Jalen E. Watson, 21, both of Indianapolis, who face murder, burglary, theft and several other charges. A probable cause affidavit says that Taylor shot Blackburn three times, including once in the back of the head.

Watson also faces a murder charge because Blackburn was killed during a burglary in which prosecutors allege that he was involved.

It was not clear whether Blackburn, who was 13 weeks pregnant, had been sexually assaulted even though she was found partially nude, Curry said.

"The investigation will continue, including any further forensic analysis that's appropriate or ongoing," he said.


ACROSS THE NATION

US issues travel warning in wake of terror attacks


WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans should be alert to the possible travel risks, especially during the holidays, following increased terrorist threats around the world, the State Department warned on Monday. A travel alert, which is to be in effect until Feb. 24, said current information suggests that militants with the Islamic State, al-Qaida, Boko Haram and other terrorist groups continue to plan attacks in multiple regions. U.S. authorities said the likelihood of terror attacks will continue as members of IS return from Syria and Iraq, and other individuals not affiliated with terror groups engage in violence on their own. Extremists have targeted sporting events, theaters, open markets and aviation targets. In the past year, there have been multiple attacks in France, Nigeria, Denmark, Lebanon, Turkey and Mali. IS has claimed responsibility for the Oct. 31 bombing of a Russian airliner in Egypt, killing 224 people.

Federal court rules Wisconsin abortion law unconstitutional

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—A Wisconsin law that requires abortion providers to get admitting privileges at nearby hospitals is unconstitutional, a federal appeals court panel ruled Monday. The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel's 2-1 decision doesn't put the question to rest. Nearly a dozen states have imposed similar requirements on abortion providers, and the U.S. Supreme Court agreed last week to hear a challenge to Texas' law in a case that could settle the issue nationally. The Wisconsin case centers on a lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood and Affiliated Medical Services. The groups argue that the 2013 law amounts to an unconstitutional restriction on abortion. The law's supporters counter the Republican-backed statutes would ensure continuity of care if a woman developed complications from an abortion and needed to be hospitalized. But the lawsuit said the statute would force AMS's clinic in Milwaukee to close because its doctors couldn't get admitting privileges. That in turn would lead to longer waits at Planned Parenthood clinics. Therefore, the lawsuit maintained, the law amounts to an illegal restriction on abortions.



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6. An individual who is pregnant or parenting
7. An individual with a disability
8. A low-income individual who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure or hold employment

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Asia

Hope is fading for justice after Philippines' worst massacre

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Six years after gunmen flagged down a convoy of cars in the southern Philippine province and massacred all 58 occupants, relatives of the victims said Monday they are losing hope of seeing justice, especially after one of the accused was released on bail.

The Philippines' worst massacre was believed to have been politically motivated, and the principal suspects are members of the Ampatuan clan, who ruled Maguindanao province for decades. The convoy carried family members of a political rival and 32 media workers, making the killings also the world's largest single attack on journalists.

The Ampatuans have denied the charges against them.

Ramonita Salaysay, widow of a slain journalist, said the release last March of suspect Sajid Ampatuan after posting 11.6 million peso (\$247,561) bail for 58 murder cases was too painful and shows the unfairness of the justice system.

He is the youngest son of clan patriarch Andal Ampatuan Sr., a

former Maguindanao governor, who died of a heart attack in July during his trial. The younger Ampatuan has registered his candidacy for a mayoral race in next year's election.

Late Monday, Salaysay and other relatives of victims marked the anniversary of the massacre by saying prayers and lighting candles in front of portraits of the dead at a historic bridge near the presidential palace in Manila. In southern General Santos city, relatives of other victims heard Mass at a cemetery where 12 of the slain journalists are buried.

Journalist groups also held marches to commemorate the killings and demand justice for the victims.

"My question is, is there really justice?" said Salaysay, her voice distraught. "With so many killed, Sajid paid 11.6 million pesos and immediately he was released while the conviction we are waiting for cannot be given."

She said her blood pressure rose when she heard he was freed on bail, when all along the victims expected that because

the crime was heinous, bail would not be allowed.

"We felt trampled upon, it added to our pain that's why I could not move on," she said, adding that their case shows "the justice system in the Philippines is really unfair."

April Dalmacio, the eldest of three daughters left behind by

journalist Leah Dalmacio, also despaired that the trial is progressing so slowly and attention on the case has waned.

She expressed fears others of the accused may find a way to be released.

Officials have said the case has been slow because of its sheer size and complexity, with

nearly 200 people charged for the killings.

Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said of the 197 accused, 111 have been arrested and arraigned, a total of 178 witnesses have been heard and the prosecution has already rested its case. He said the executive branch also wants to see the

case resolved but can only wait for the judicial branch.

Amnesty International Philippines expressed concern that no one has been held accountable for the killing of at least eight witnesses since 2009. It added that delays and setbacks to court proceedings due to bail hearings should not be an excuse.



Relatives of 32 journalists and media workers who were killed in the massacre of 58 people in Maguindanao province in southern Philippines six years ago, march with torches towards the Presidential Palace to commemorate its 6th anniversary Monday, Nov. 23, 2015 in Manila, Philippines. AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

Marcos jewelry being appraised ahead of possible auction

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government is having millions of dollars' worth of jewelry seized from former first lady Imelda Marcos appraised ahead of a possible auctioning of the collection. The jewelry was seized when Marcos' family fled to Hawaii in 1986 following a revolt that ended her husband's two decades in power. Late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' family allegedly amassed billions of dollars' worth of ill-gotten wealth. The jewelry collection was valued at \$5-7 million in 1988 and 1991. Andrew de Castro of the presidential commission tasked to recover the wealth said Tuesday the appraisal will help the government decide whether to auction off the jewelry. Christie's auction house said the collection, including a newly discovered 25-carat Indian pink diamond worth at least \$5 million, is comparable to those owned by royalty.

Thailand indicts 2 for deadly Bangkok bombing

BANGKOK (AP)—A military court in Thailand has indicted two men police say carried out a deadly August bombing at a Bangkok shrine that left 20 people dead and more than 120 injured. The two, identified as Bilal Mohammad and Mieraili Yusufu, were indicted on 10 charges Tuesday connected to the Aug. 17 blast at Erawan

Shrine. Thai officials say there was no political or religious motive behind the attack. They say the blast was revenge by a people-smuggling network against Thai authorities for breaking up their operation. The two have been held at an army base since their arrests in August and September. They are being tried at a military court, where cases of national security have been handled since the army seized power in a coup last May.

Blast at Japan's controversial war shrine injures no one

TOKYO (AP)—An explosion Monday damaged a public restroom at a controversial shrine in Tokyo that honors Japanese war dead, with police suspecting foul play. No one was injured. The Yasukuni shrine, which honors 2.5 million Japanese war dead, including executed war criminals, has been the target of criticism from China and South Korea, which suffered from Japan's World War II atrocities and aggression. Tokyo police said in a statement that they received a call about an explosion and smoke at Yasukuni. They said they suspected a "guerrilla" attack, implying some kind of subversive activity, but declined to elaborate. Firefighters were also called to the scene and found the ceiling and walls of the restroom had been damaged, said an official at the Tokyo Fire Department, who spoke on condition of anonymity. But the fire was out by the time they arrived.

MH370 hunt moves to where British pilot believes it crashed

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The deep sea hunt for a missing Malaysian airliner has shifted to a remote part of the Indian Ocean where a British pilot has calculated that the Boeing 777 made a controlled ditching last year with 239 people aboard, officials said Monday.

The patch of deep ocean southwest of Australia that Capt. Simon Hardy has determined is the most likely resting place of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 will be searched

through December, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which is coordinating the search on Malaysia's behalf, said in a statement.

But Australian authorities are not being guided by the experienced Boeing 777 pilot's analysis. Martin Dolan, the bureau's chief commissioner, said the search was moving farther south within a 120,000-square-kilometer (46,000-square-mile) priority area because the southern hemisphere spring had made the extreme conditions in

the southern ocean calmer.

"We're aware that we're in the area that Capt. Hardy specifies, but we're in that area because it was next in our search sequence, and we've been moving progressively south because the weather is improving," Dolan said.

Hardy's theory of where Flight 370 went after it inexplicably flew far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing on March 8, 2014, has been widely published in recent

months. He used mathematical analysis and a flight simulator to plot the course he believed the airliner took when it vanished in one of aviation's most baffling mysteries.

"I am fairly confident that the wreckage will be found within the next four to eight weeks," Hardy told The Australian newspaper.

Experts directing the search have discussed Hardy's theory with him. Hardy could not be immediately contacted for comment on Monday.

Bangladesh angry over Pakistan's criticism of executions

NEW DELHI (AP)—Bangladesh accused Pakistan on Monday of interfering in its internal affairs by criticizing the execution of two opposition leaders for alleged war crimes during the country's 1971 war of independence.

Bangladesh Junior Foreign Affairs Minister Shahriar Alam said a "strongly worded protest note" was handed to Pakistan's envoy saying the criticism was unacceptable.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry earlier said the men's trials were flawed and that it was "deeply disturbed" by their

executions on Sunday.

Bangladesh was the eastern part of Pakistan until the 1971 war in which it became independent. Two war crimes tribunals set up by the government in 2010 and 2012 have convicted 18 people, mostly leaders of an opposition Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami. There has been international concern about the legal process.

The party openly campaigned against independence for Bangladesh during the war. Bangladesh's government says Pakistani soldiers, aided by local collaborators, killed 3 mil-

lion people and raped 200,000 women during the fighting.

Bangladesh was on high alert Monday against any violence in response to Sunday's hangings, with thousands of security personnel patrolling its cities.

Jamaat-e-Islami called for a nationwide strike to protest the executions of its general secretary, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, and opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury.

Mujahid, 67, was found guilty of genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture

and abduction during the independence war, while Chowdhury, 66, was convicted of torture, rape and genocide.

Few were expected to heed the call to strike. The Islamist party has only about 3 percent of the country's vote. While traffic was lighter on Monday, government offices and services remained open.

Nevertheless, authorities said they were increasing vigilance after a series of killings claimed by Islamist extremists this year, including the murders of four secular bloggers, a publisher and two foreigners.

World

Suicide vest found in Paris raises possible link to suspect

BRUSSELS (AP)—A street cleaner in a Paris suburb found an explosive vest similar to those used in the Paris attacks on Monday near the place where a suspect's mobile phone had been found, raising the possibility that he aborted his mission, either ditching a malfunctioning vest—or fleeing in fear.

The discovery of the vest came as Belgium's prime minister cited a "serious and imminent" threat justifying keeping the highest alert level operational for at least another week. The security measures, already in place for three days, have severely disrupted normal life in the capital.

In France, police said an explosive vest—without a detonator—was found by a street cleaner in a pile of rubble in Chatillon-Montrouge, on the southern edge of Paris and a considerable distance from the sites of the attacks on the Right Bank of the Seine to the north. A police official later said the vest contained bolts and the same type of explosives—TATP—as those used in the Nov. 13 Paris

attacks that claimed 130 lives and left hundreds wounded.

The device was found Monday in the same area where a cellphone belonging to fugitive suspect Salah Abdeslam was located on the day of the Paris attacks but the vest has not been formally linked to him, said two police officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation.

Belgium-based terrorism expert Claude Moniquet, who has been in contact with both Belgian and French investigators since the attacks, laid out two possibilities: that Abdeslam became afraid of carrying out a suicide mission or, more likely he says, that he simply ditched a defective explosive vest.

Nervousness could have played a role in concocting a defective vest, but he said he doubted fear played a role for among Islamic State followers, "it is rare not to go to the end."

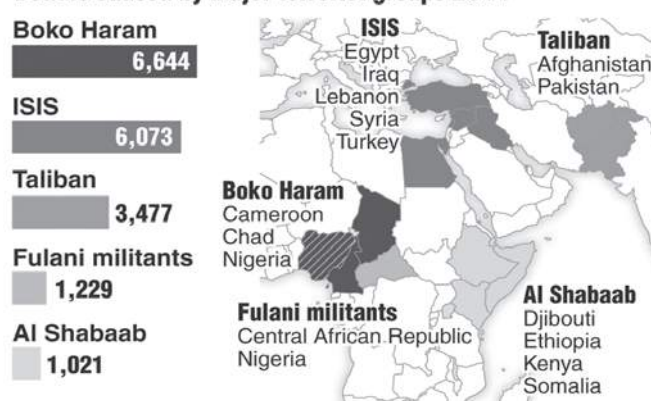
Moniquet said this was only theory since he had not yet spoken to investigators about the

Global terrorism

Countries with the most terrorism-related deaths 2014



Deaths caused by major terrorist groups 2014



Source: Institute for Economics & Peace

Graphic: Tribune News Service

Canada to announce plan Tuesday to resettle 25,000 refugees

TORONTO (AP)—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will announce Tuesday his plan to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees and he says all 10 of Canada's provincial premiers support bringing that many in.

Trudeau hasn't backed down from a pledge to bring 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada by Dec. 31 despite pushback by some following the deadly attacks in Paris.

Details of how the refugees will be brought over and where they will be housed are expected to be announced Tuesday.

"Everyone agrees that Canada must do more and must welcome 25,000 refugees,"

Trudeau said after meeting with provincial leaders late Monday.

Tuesday's announcement is sure to raise alarm in the U.S. where many Republican governors have said they don't want any Syrian refugees.

Trudeau said robust security screening continues to be a high priority.

Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard said accepting refugees and immigrants is part of Canadian tradition.

"There was no one sitting at the table that is not interested in seeing refugees come," Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne said.

Immigration Minister John McCallum said he spoke to

Canada's big city mayors about how they can help resettle the refugees.

Canada has long prided itself on opening its doors wider than any nation to asylum seekers. In times of crisis in decades past, Canada resettled refugees quickly and in large numbers. It airlifted more than 5,000 people from Kosovo in the late 1990s, more than 5,000 from Uganda in 1972 and resettled 60,000 Vietnamese in 1979-80. More than 1.2 million refugees have arrived in Canada since World War II.

Former Conservative Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who lost the Oct. 19 election to Trudeau, had de-

clined to resettle more Syrian refugees, despite the haunting image of a drowned 3-year-old boy washed up on a Turkish beach that focused global attention on the migrant crisis stemming from the civil war. The boy had relatives in Canada and the refugee crisis became a major campaign issue.

Brad Wall, the Conservative premier of Saskatchewan province, said he has problems with the deadline of Dec. 31 for security reasons, but believes Canada should welcome the refugees.

More than 4 million Syrians have fled their country since the conflict began in 2011.

Vatican puts 2 journalists on trial for reporting on leaks

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Two Italian journalists who wrote books detailing Vatican mismanagement go on trial Tuesday in a Vatican courtroom along with three people accused of leaking them the information in a case that has drawn scorn from media watchdogs around the world.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters Without Borders and the OSCE, among others, have all called on the Vatican to drop the charges against Gianluigi Nuzzi and Emiliano Fittipaldi. The two reporters face up to eight years in prison if convicted of charges they violated Vatican law by publishing news based on confidential Holy See documents.

In interviews Monday, Nuzzi and Fittipaldi both called the

process "Kafka-esque." With hours to go before the start of trial, neither they nor their lawyers had seen the court file detailing the accusations against them. Nuzzi only spoke for the first time with his Vatican court-appointed lawyer Monday morning. They were indicted Friday.

Even though they technically risk arrest by stepping on Vatican soil Tuesday, both said they planned to attend the trial—if only to report to the world what transpires. The Vatican is a sovereign state, and by entering Vatican territory, Nuzzi and Fittipaldi could well be detained by Vatican gendarmes given the grave accusations against them. But neither expected the Vatican would take that route, given the diplomatic incident it would set off with Italy.

"This is a trial against freedom of the press," Fittipaldi said in an interview at his offices in the headquarters of Rome's La Repubblica newspaper. "In no other part of the world, at least in the part of the world that considers itself democratic, is there a crime of a scoop, a crime of publishing news."

If convicted Nuzzi and Fittipaldi face up to eight years in prison. Since they are Italian citizens, any sentence would involve an extradition request. Both journalists said they believed no Italian judge would extradite them, given freedom of the press is guaranteed by the Italian constitution and that Italy would be loath to extradite two of its citizens to a state that doesn't respect the same fundamental right as free expression.

Fittipaldi's book "Avarice," and Nuzzi's book "Merchants in the Temple," both published earlier this month, detail waste and mismanagement in the Vatican administration, the greed of some cardinals and bishops and the resistance Pope Francis is facing in trying to clean it up.

Both books were largely based on documents produced by a special reform commission Francis named to get a handle on the Vatican's financial holdings and propose reforms so that more money could be given to the poor.

The three other people on trial were affiliated with the commission: Monsignor Angelo Lucio Vallejo Balda was its No. 2, Francesca Chaouqui was a member and outside public relations expert, and Nicola Maio was Balda's assistant.

explosive vest find.

A manhunt is underway for Abdeslam, whose brother Brahim was among attackers who blew themselves up. He crossed the border into Belgium after the attacks, with French police stopping and interviewing him, before letting him go.

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said Brussels, which houses the headquarters of the European Union and NATO, faced a "serious and imminent" threat that requires keeping the city at the highest alert level, while the rest of the country would stay at the second-highest level. Belgium's crisis center said the alert level would only change if a significant breakthrough warranted it.

The increased security measures in the wake of the massacre in Paris have virtually shut down the Belgian capital, with the subway system, many shops and schools remaining shut on

Monday. Michel said that despite the continued high-alert level, schools would reopen Wednesday, with parts of the subway system beginning to operate. He did not say when the system would be completely online again.

"We are very alert and call for caution," Michel said. "The potential targets remain the same: shopping centers and shopping streets and public transport."

"We want to return to a normal way of life as quickly as possible," he added.

Belgian authorities have not announced any details of their investigation into potential attacks nor have they released information about four suspects who have been arrested and charged with terrorism-related offenses. These include one suspect who was arrested as part of a sweep that saw 21 people detained since Sunday night. Fifteen of those detainees have since been released.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mali releases photos of slain gunmen in hotel attack

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—State media broadcast photos Monday of the two slain attackers of a luxury hotel in Mali's capital, appealing for anyone who knew them to come forward with information about the gunmen. The photos of the two young men were taken after Friday's rampage at the Radisson Blu hotel in which 19 people were killed, said Capt. Baba Cisse at the Interior Ministry. The gunmen, who shouted "God is great!" in Arabic as they attacked, were shot to death by security forces following a more than seven-hour siege in the capital of the West African country. Officials also put out phone numbers, urging people who might have known them to call with information. The decision to release the photos came a day after the Islamic extremist group that first claimed responsibility for the attack purported to identify the gunmen in an audio recording, according to Al-Akhbar, a Mauritanian news site that often receives messages from Malian extremists.

Cameron pledges to outline strategy against IS this week

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister David Cameron will begin to lay out his case this week for the Royal Air Force to start hitting Islamic State targets in Syria, something he has been eager to do but feared being blocked by Parliament. Speaking in Paris on Monday after meeting French President Francois

Hollande, Cameron said the two leaders agreed to increase counterterrorism cooperation. He called for greater European Union-wide efforts to share intelligence to stop extremists and offered the use of the air base at Akrotiri on Cyprus for actions in Syria against the Islamic State group. "The United Kingdom will do all in our power to support our friend and ally France to defeat this evil death cult," he said. The RAF is already participating in airstrikes in Iraq. Cameron lost a vote in Parliament two years ago to allow attacks on Syria, and has been reluctant to even suggest another until he could be certain to win.

Prosecutors say jewel heist was largest in English history

LONDON (AP)—A daring Easter weekend break-in to a vault in London's Hatton Garden diamond district netted gold, platinum, jewelry and cash valued at roughly 14 million pounds (\$21 million), a prosecutor said Monday. Philip Evans said the complex caper—hatched at a series of Friday night pub sessions—was the "largest burglary in English legal history." The goods were taken from safe-deposit boxes inside the basement vault over the holiday weekend. Evans said the gang used sophisticated methods and meticulous planning to drill into the wall of the vault before ransacking 73 boxes. Four men said to be ringleaders have already pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary. Four others are on trial at Woolwich Crown Court accused of involvement in the theft.

Good Housekeeping

How to organize your house before the holidays

By **STACY GIORDULLO**
ANGIE'S LIST

'Tis the season for guests, parties, shopping, decorating, wrapping, cooking and entertaining. Keeping your home a peaceful haven during the crush of holiday stress can sometimes seem too big to tackle. Yet taking time to declutter and organize items around the home can help calm the chaos that oftentimes accompanies the holidays.

"Be kind and patient with yourself, and accept that we can't be superheroes despite the notion that everything must be perfect when families and friends arrive," says Melanie Raelin, owner of Wits End Organizing in Medford, Mass. "I've realized people really don't look around at the perceived mess as much as we think, and that they're there to see you and your family, not your stuff." Here are some solutions to ease you into the holiday fray:

Evaluate the holiday decor

As you start to pull out holiday decorations from storage, keep your favorite items and give away the rest. "Ask yourself if you really love it," says Diane Luck, owner of Diane Luck Personal Organizer in Portland, Ore. "Or is it something you just picked up on sale? The things that don't give you joy should be



FRANK ESPICH

Once you finish decorating this year, take a photograph to document the display and store the picture with the decor for easier decorating next year.

passed on to someone else who might enjoy them."

Once you finish decorating, take a photograph to document the display and store the picture with the decor. "That way, next year someone else can help set everything out, and there won't be any guesswork," says Deb Oppel, owner of Decluttered by Deb in Minneapolis.

Take time to donate

It's also a good time to decide what clothes, coats, toys and books you no longer need and gather them for donation. "When the kids are old enough, it's nice to have them involved in the process," Raelin says. "When they make up their gift wish lists, it's a great opportunity to bring up the notion of making room for the

new. It's best to pack away toys and items the kid has outgrown before the holiday season, and donate to some of the great charities serving children in need."

Guess who's coming to dinner?

If guests throw you a curve ball by announcing a last-minute visit, take time to walk through your

house and look at it as if you were a stranger. Focus on the main areas your guests will occupy, such as the living room, bathroom, kitchen and guest bedroom. "You can do a lot in one day," says Linda Goldman, owner of Altogether Organized in Highland Park, Ill. "Just putting things where they belong will go a long way in making your home clutter free." Pay attention to floors and clear the surfaces of tabletops and dressers. Make sure you have enough seating, and put out fresh towels for overnight guests. Take a quick inventory in any

bathroom your guest might use, and clear out any items you don't want rummaged through.

Call in the big guns

If organizing your home feels like an overwhelming task with the holidays looming, consider hiring a professional organizer for an objective approach. Sometimes, a consultation helps give homeowners the kick-start they need to finish the task. Rates for an organizer range from about \$50 to \$100 an hour, and most have a 2-3 hour minimum requirement. During the holiday season, some organizers can play more of a "personal assistant" role and help with event planning, party preparation, buying and wrapping gifts or delivering donated items.

Look for a highly rated organizer with whom you feel comfortable. Many professionals stay up on the latest industry trends and follow a code of ethics by belonging to the National Association of Professional Organizers. Whether you try to organize on your own or bring in some extra help, our experts say homeowners should keep calm about the clutter.

"Take a second to enjoy the holidays," says Pamela Morone, owner of Creating Clarity in Los Angeles. "With all of the chaos and to-do lists, it's important to throw it all out at some point and enjoy your friends and family."

Stacy Giordullo is a reporter at Angie's List, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

YOUR PLACE

What your shower may be trying to tell you

By **ALAN J. HEAVENS**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Each morning about 7 o'clock, my shower and I share a relationship lasting no more than a couple minutes—an effort to keep the water bill to a reasonable monthly payment.

It's the shower I've used for the 15 years I've lived in this house, but do I really know anything about it?

The folks at Grohe—which, coincidentally, made my kitchen sink faucet (installed by the previous owners)—have made me

believe I don't know my shower at all and have taken it upon themselves to correct that situation.

Did you know that the average shower lasts eight minutes in America, or that the shower is the third-largest source of water use in the average American home?

I guess I did not know that.

Although Grohe sent me this information to pitch its products, it was wrapped in very interesting facts.

For example, different showerheads emit water at different rates, and "flow rate" affects

how efficient a showerhead is, or isn't.

Federal law limits the maximum allowable flow rate to 2.5 gallons a minute for showerheads, but some have even lower flow rates. The less water that comes out of the showerhead a minute, the less water that will get wasted down the drain.

If your showerhead pre-dates 1980, it could be using more than 5 gallons a minute.

Updating a shower can improve its efficiency and your shower experience, yet the potential need to open a bathroom wall may make you hesitate.

"Shower renovations don't have to require major replumbing," said Cheryl Dixon, head of brand trade and marketing for Grohe.

How much water goes down the shower drain while you're waiting for the temperature to reach a comfortable level?

"Adding a shower with a thermostatic valve not only ensures you'll never again step into an icy shower stream or be surprised by a temperature fluctuation, it can also reduce the amount of water you use," Dixon said.

Studies show that many people are significantly expanding the size of their showers during renovations, as you might imagine. We'd all like bigger showers, right?

Contact Alan J. Heavens at aheavens@phillynews.com or write him at The Philadelphia Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101. Volume prohibits individual replies.



Winter jasmine

A native of China, *jasminum nudiflorum* is a vining shrub that grows 3-4 feet high and twice as wide. Its willowy stems root wherever they touch the ground, forming a thick wall of foliage. Hundreds of bright yellow flowers open all along the stems in the dead of winter. Often confused with forsythia, it actually blossoms over a much longer period.

Source: www.southernliving.com

— Brenda Weaver

COMFORT FOOD

Candied Sweet Potatoes

If you wish, sprinkle with sliced almonds, chopped walnuts or chopped pecans before serving. Or top with tiny marshmallows and broil about 6 inches away from the source of heat until lightly browned.

- 4 large sweet potatoes (12 ounces each), each peeled, cut crosswise in half, and each half cut lengthwise into 3 wedges
- 2 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons butter or margarine, cut into pieces
- 1/8 teaspoon ground red pepper (cayenne)
- 2 tablespoons dry sherry (optional)

1. Heat oven to 375 F. In 5-quart Dutch oven, combine sweet potatoes, enough water to cover and 2 teaspoons salt; heating to boiling over high heat. Boil until tender, about 10 minutes. Drain.

2. Meanwhile, in nonstick 10-inch skillet, combine brown sugar, butter, remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and ground red pepper; heat over medium heat, stirring, until butter melts, about 1 minute. Stir in sherry, if using. Cook, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes longer.

3. Transfer potatoes to shallow 13-by-9-inch baking dish and top with brown-sugar mixture. Cover with foil and bake 30 minutes, stirring halfway through baking. Remove foil and bake until syrup is dark and very thick, 30 to 40 minutes, stirring halfway through. Makes 8 servings.

■ Each serving: About 201 calories, 5g fat (3g saturated), 2g protein, 39g carbohydrate, 12mg cholesterol, 499mg sodium. For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.good-housekeeping.com/recipefinder/. (Hearst Communications, Inc.)

Life & Style

REDISCOVERING THE PHILIPPINES

Dining in unforgettable settings

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
The only one of its kind, Villa Escudero Plantations and Resort's waterfall restaurant is consistently ranked among the world's most unique, most unusual and most interesting restaurants.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

First part of a series

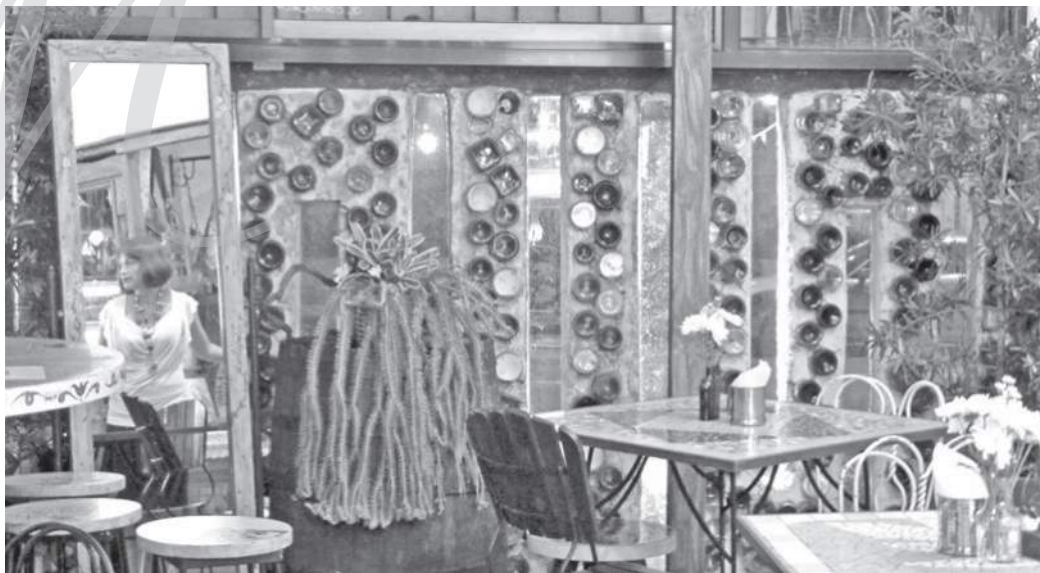
MANILA, Philippines—From feasting on sumptuous lunch buffets at the foot of a waterfall in the middle of a coconut plantation to driving your appetite aboard a jeepney, unique culinary experiences in the Philippines need not be confined to traditional restaurant settings.

So when you're in the Philippines for a vacation, medical tourism, or relocation, be prepared for awe-inspiring and heritage-laden twists to your dining and coffee drinking explorations.

Here's just a sampling of interesting places within Manila and nearby places that will not only bring you gastronomical delights but will also take you on a journey through time, the countryside, around the globe, or even Harry Potter's world.

Getting up close and personal with a waterfall is in itself a wondrous experience. More so when you get to feast on authentic Filipino cuisine right at the foot of a roaring waterfall, with clear spring water over your bare feet and sometimes live fish swimming around you. This lunch buffet-style waterfall restaurant is the crown jewel of the sprawling Villa Escudero Plantations and Resort in San Pablo City, Laguna.

While it is not a natural waterfall but a spillover from a dam for a historic coconut plantation, Villa Escudero's waterfall restaurant remains the only



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The interior of an artsy restaurant and bar called WUMS or When Uan Met Sally along Maginhawa Street.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

You may choose to go bamboo rafting in the river at Villa Escudero Plantations and Resort.

one of its kind and is consistently included on the list of most unique, most exotic, or most interesting restaurants in the world. The plantation ground is framed by mountains, coconut trees, and lush greenery.

This restaurant with a watery treat serves delectable grilled and fried fish, grilled pork, other meat and vegetable dishes, pansit (noodles) and other exotic

Filipino food arranged in grass-fringed bamboo tables. And of course, you can eat as much as you can.

You can totally soak yourself in the waterfalls just for the thrill of it, sit at the foot of it, or simply gaze at it for hours. Dining at the foot of a waterfall is simply a unique memory that stays with you long after your trip.

It's highly recommended that

you visit the hacienda-type resort during weekends so you can watch beautifully choreographed Philippine folk dances and music at the main hall overlooking the river. They are performed by Villa Escudero's very own employees, from the restaurant servers to grounds-keepers.

Hop on a carabao cart ride from Villa Escudero's main gate. As you slowly drive past lush gardens, war relics, statues depicting rural life of decades ago, and other points of interest, you will also be serenaded with kundiman and other folk songs by staff clad in traditional Filipino attire. The tranquil countryside or rural village scenery all year round transports you back in time as if it's still in the late 1920s when the coconut planta-



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The Nook Cafe and Books is so far the only Harry Potter-inspired coffee shop in the Philippines.

tion was originally built. It was opened to the public more than five decades later.

The bright pink church you see a few minutes from the main gate is actually a museum when you step inside. This museum has possibly the most eclectic collection of artifacts you'll ever see—from Spanish-era religious relics to prehistoric jars, mounted animals, clothing by former Philippine presidents, money from different eras, and even a piece of the Berlin Wall. Nearby is the Escudero family's ancestral house, which is closed off from the general public.

You may also choose to go fishing, bamboo rafting in the river, bird watching, swim in the pool, lounge by a coffee shop overlooking the river, or explore the other amenities at



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Once you step inside The Nook Cafe and Books along Maginhawa Street, this will be one of the Harry Potter-inspired decors that will greet you.

the hacienda-themed resort.

Everywhere you look, the views are breathtaking and awe-inspiring. For those who can't get enough of the place, Villa Escudero offers overnight accommodations that include cottages by the river. With hammocks.

For yet another suggested item on your "eat-itinerary," turn your attention to not only a single restaurant but to a whole street dotted with themed, artsy, quirky, poetic, dramatic, and specialty restaurants, bars and cafés called Maginhawa Street in Quezon City.

Maginhawa Street is one of the latest and hippest "eat streets" in the country. It's a one-stop place where you can

See DINING on Next Page

DINING

From Page 20

eat, pray, love, and share. Students from nearby University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and Miriam College know the area well, but because the street's reputation has grown, it has been drawing crowds from other parts of Metro Manila and beyond.

We wish we could have flown to our first stop at Maginhawa Street using a Firebolt racing broom to save ourselves from the traffic jam. Turns out, a Firebolt was already waiting for us, hanging by the ceiling of the Harry Potter-inspired The Nook Coffee and Books.

If you haven't read about this place yet, the façade looks ordinary, just like the barrier between Platforms 9 and 10 at London's King's Cross Station that Harry Potter and other students go through to go to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

But if you take a closer look, the board outside says The Nook offers the Harry Potter-inspired Butterbeer, "the preferred drink of underage wizards and witches." The non-alcoholic beverage comes in Harry size and Hagrid size. Be forewarned: It's too sweet.

For such a tiny space, they were able to do magic with Harry Potter-themed décor. Must be

the wand—which you can borrow, by the way—along with a Hogwarts cape, just for the experience of it.

Besides coffee, frappuccinos, pastries and cookies, The Nook also serves a cooler with some crushed ice they call Goya-zilla, cheese potato wedges, bacon-wrapped chicken, grilled cheese panini and a spicy Spanish sardine or 3S pasta.

Because the place is compact, seating is limited so prepare to wait for an hour or perhaps more, for a chance to be able to get in, especially during week-ends and in the afternoons.

On your road trip along Maginhawa Street, do not skip Gerry's Jeepney, which serves

beloved Filipino picnic meals aboard commonplace jeepneys converted into a creative restaurant concept.

For the uninitiated, jeepney is the most popular means of public transportation in the Philippines. Jeepneys were originally made from U.S. military jeeps left over from World War II, and Filipinos turned it into a means of mass transportation. It has become an ingenious and ubiquitous symbol of Filipino art and culture, the "king of the road."

It is one of the most sought-after themed restaurants in the strip, so during certain periods, the wait list is too long. But the superb food, the colorful themed décor, the unique and fun ambience give Gerry's Jeepney a very Filipino feel that makes it worth the wait.

While waiting for you turn

to be seated or for the food to be served, enjoy the view and the concept. Each of the parked jeepneys is carefully decorated and injected with the right amount of Filipino humor and individual themes from local cinema to horror, superheroes and patriotic.

The restaurant's public sinks are made from used jeepney tires, while common jeepney stickers with amusing messages are posted on the wall. Read: "Basta driver, sweet lover." "Basta sexy libre, pag chaby doble." "God knows Hudas not pay." "Kalimutan ang lahat, huwag lang ang bayad."

Dining at Gerry's Jeepney is like feasting on delightful picnic food that your grandmother or mother used to cook to perfection. Besides individual orders, there are also set meals named after the most popular jeepney

routes in Metro Manila: Quiapo Ilalim, Cubao Yale, and Ayala. The Ayala set, for example, is good for two to four persons and include plain, bagoong or garlic rice, liempo, crispy shrimp, grilled milkfish or tilapia, eggplant salad with salted egg, soup and iced tea.

And then there's the boodle fight, so called for its roots from the Philippine military style of eating wherein soldiers, regardless of rank or position, dine together on food spread out on banana leaves. It's strictly hands-only style of eating, so no silverware, no flatware, no serving spoons, and no platters. For the military, as well as groups of friends, families and office mates, the boodle fight symbolizes camaraderie, brotherhood, equality, lots of fun and lots of food.

Every Filipino food you can

think of, they most probably have it, and then some unheard of dishes such as sautéed kang-kong stalks in ginger, onion and coconut milk, topped with crispy fried dilis.

Other restaurants, bars and coffee shops have their own concepts and themes. There's really an "Artsy Café," and across it is an equally artsy "WUMS" or "When Uan Met Sally (does this sound familiar?)."

There's "Van Gogh is Bipolar," "Gayuma ni Maria," "Cocina Juan," The Iscreamist," "Blacksoup Café + Artspace," "Ally's All Day Breakfast," "Leona Art Restaurant," "Stuff Over Birger Café," and "The Sweet Spot." These are but some of the tantalizing spots to choose from. Just the names reek of creativity and would pique anyone's curiosity.

There are places specializing in pansit and pasta, Filipino barbecue, American steaks, Japanese food, Thai food, Italian food, Korean food, street food, student food. There's also the first photography-themed destination called "Caffera: Café + Camera," where your coffee comes in an SLR camera lenses, for example.

Maginhawa Street does have the food for every type of hunger, every type of thirst, every style and every mood. Hungry yet?

To be continued.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The Nook Cafe and Books is so far the only Harry Potter-inspired coffee shop in the Philippines.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Philippine folk dance performance by Villa Escudero Plantations and Resort's very own employees, from restaurant servers to groundskeepers.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

At Gerry's Jeepney, guests are treated to superb picnic-type Filipino cuisine aboard iconic jeepneys.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

You can dine aboard this highly decorated jeepney at Gerry's Jeepney.

Wife who yearns for husband's support must rely on her own

DEAR ABBY: While I was nine months pregnant with my first child, I asked my husband what he would say if I had any problem during my delivery and he was asked to choose between me or the baby. His answer was, "Of course I'd pick the baby because you can never replace the baby." His answer broke my heart. Four days later, my water broke at 36 weeks, and I thank God for giving me a healthy little boy.

While in labor, I was terrified because I had some complications with my health at the beginning of my pregnancy. I can't get it out of my head now, because I feel like my husband doesn't love me. I have tried to talk to him about how it hurt me, but his answer is that this is his belief and I can't change that. Was I wrong for asking him?

MOTHER IN AMARILLO, TEXAS

DEAR MOTHER: I don't think so. You were asking for his reassurance, and I'm sorry you didn't get it. If a child is delivered in a Catholic hospital, the policy is to save the child if a choice must be made. It appears this is also your husband's belief.

My advice is, dry your tears and remember that what he implied about wives being replaceable can also be said about husbands. Perhaps it's time to give serious thought to drawing up a health care directive so that, in the event you should become unable to make decisions for yourself in the future, your wishes are clearly known.

DEAR ABBY: When I was in my 20s and out on my own, my father left my mother for his secretary, "Doris." They married soon after. She is a nice enough person, but she can be a little pushy. I have had to work on setting boundaries with her.

Every time we talk or visit—maybe once a month—Doris makes a point of telling me she loves me, and it's clear she's hoping I will reciprocate. I'm happy we are on good terms. I'm glad she's married to my dad because he seems happy with her. I'm comfortable with my daughter calling her Grandma. But I can't bring myself to tell her I love her because I don't feel that way about her.

I hoped Doris would get it when I responded with things like, "It's great to see you, too," but it hasn't happened. She's estranged from her own daughter, and I think she wants to feel like she's my mom, which I'm not comfortable with.

Dad refuses to talk about anything related to his wife, so he is of no help. How can I get my stepmother to back off without hurting her feelings? I want to remain on good terms.

ON GOOD TERMS IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ON GOOD TERMS: Try saying this: "You're loved, too, Doris." It's not a lie because your dad does love her, and it may satisfy her if she doesn't see this column.

DEAR READERS: Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and no Thanksgiving would be complete without my sharing the tra-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ditional prayer penned by my dear mother:

Oh, Heavenly Father,
We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry.
We thank Thee for health and remember the sick.
We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless.
We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.
May these remembrances stir us to service,
That Thy gifts to us may be used for others.
Amen.
Have a safe and happy celebration, everyone!

Love, ABBY

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

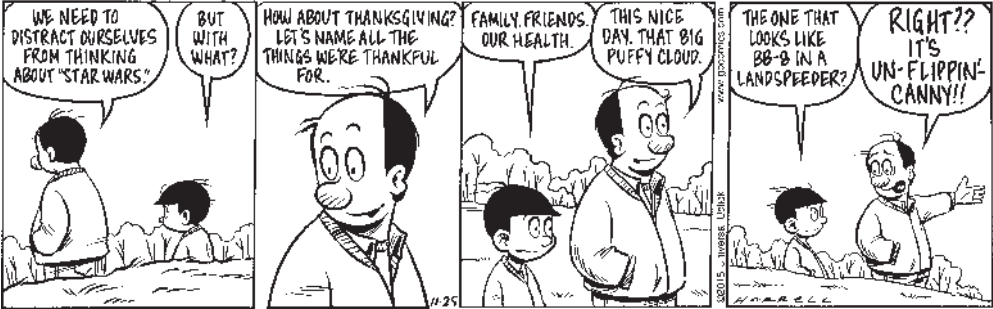
Garfield® By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lean to one side

5 City, in slang

8 Pulverize potatoes

12 "Super-food" berry

13 Zany Brooks

14 Old Peruvian

15 Stayed with the front runner

17 Hitch

18 "Frasier" dog

19 Underdog victories

21 Wee bit

24 Old Mid-east org.

25 Futile

28 Rain forest plant

30 "Nasty!"

33 Flub

34 Patient's share

35 Forbes profilee, for short

36 Ring victory (Abbr.)

37 Highly eager

DOWN

1 Seize

2 Tea choice

3 Sgt. Friday's force

4 Renaissance painter

5 "Prime" star

6 Cam-corder abbr.

7 "Sacre—"

8 Beethoven's "—"

9 "The Witching Hour" author

10 Emulate Ella

11 Witchy women

16 Favorite

20 Runtish

22 In — (dazed)

23 Station

25 Nov. honoree

26 Noah's vessel

27 Wellington's nickname, with "The"

29 Prego rival

31 Lincoln center?

32 Keystone

34 Shrewd

38 Pickle store?

40 Marketing pros

42 Short haircut

43 Small amounts of moisturizer

44 Landed

45 Tony's kin

47 Tip-top

48 Tiny branch

49 Goals

52 Composer Berlin, to pals

53 Fed. property manager

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	L	N	K	U	M	A	G	A	L	A
I	N	D	E	F	I	R	L	T	A	H
C	H	A	R	I	O	T	S	M	O	N
M	R	S	E	M	B	R	E	D	S	
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O	Q	R	T	C	H	A	R	L	I	Z
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C	H	A	R	T	R	E	S	G	A	N
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H	E	I	D	C	H	A	R	A	D	F
I	S	E	L	U	S	O	N	I	N	O
Z	A	G	S	E	N	S	E	G	O	S

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Katie Cassidy, 29; Jerry Ferrara, 36; Christina Applegate, 44; Bruno Tonioli, 60.

Happy Birthday: Start taking your life more seriously and focus on getting ahead by following through with your plans. Look for the opportunities that will help you improve your qualifications, and use your knowledge to gain leverage over any competition that comes along. Don't wait for others to do things for you. Become an instigator and you will control your destiny. Your numbers are 7, 16, 21, 28, 33, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a look at your financial situation and make adjustments that will help you save for the future. A change in an important relationship should be examined before you lose something special. Tolerance and understanding are the keys. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Generosity isn't always the answer. Someone who is asking for your help is not being completely honest. Listen and offer suggestions, but don't pay for someone else's mistakes. Take charge of whatever situations you face and don't get taken advantage of. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll have trouble containing your feelings. Try not to let your personal problems spill over into work. You can keep the peace and smooth things over with your loved one if you offer a romantic solution that is within your means. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There will be trouble if you can't make up your mind or if you get into an argument.

Consider what you want and show confidence in the decisions you make. Indecision will lead to a lack of control. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your assistance and enthusiasm will help position you for greater opportunities. A short trip will lead to talks that will give you something to look forward to. The incentives you receive will help you make up your mind and change your life. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make changes for the right reasons. Not all the choices you are given will be right for you. Someone may be convincing, but without proof it's best to take a conservative approach to what is being offered. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional spending won't lift your spirits. Instead, try to make changes that will ease your stress and introduce you to new people and places. Self-improvement and working to improve relationships should take top priority. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be receptive to new ideas and different ways of doing things. Taking a unique approach to the way you help others or run your household will bring good results. Limit how much you spend on nonessential items. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be tempted to make changes that will affect your home and your status. Careful consideration will be necessary if you don't want to end up having regrets. Romance will be enticing, but the outcome will be less inviting. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can't save the world. Put a greater emphasis on your home, family and protecting what you've worked so hard to acquire. Avoid getting involved with questionable ventures or untrustworthy people. Don't believe everything you hear. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be insightful when it comes to money matters and vocational choices. Change is upon you, and the chance to move into a new phase of your life looks promising. Turn what you enjoy doing into a lucrative pastime. Romance is encouraged. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A secretive approach will help you bypass interference. Emotional matters will escalate if you partner up with someone who doesn't think the same way as you. Go it alone and aim to do things your way. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are temperamental, creative and detailed. You are unpredictable and engaging.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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6									2	
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		3							6	
			5	8	7	3	2			

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/25

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD**.

CONNECTING FLIGHTS Solution: 8 letters

C	S	D	W	T	E	C	O	N	C	O	U	R	S	E
O	S	L	W	O	R	S	T	H	G	I	L	F	C	M
U	A	T	U	O	L	O	U	N	G	E	I	I	E	B
N	P	G	E	G	R	S	P	A	M	N	V	N	T	A
T	G	A	E	K	G	C	L	E	A	R	A	H	I	R
E	N	S	T	N	C	A	N	L	E	L	G	S	A	K
R	I	T	A	H	T	I	G	S	P	I	R	M	W	R
E	D	R	I	R	L	T	T	E	T	E	C	N	E	Y
G	R	E	L	R	R	D	F	L	I	B	V	A	T	
N	A	L	I	O	O	I	A	E	T	P	O	G	E	I
E	O	A	P	P	C	R	V	S	L	Y	O	A	L	R
S	B	R	S	A	C	A	E	A	A	K	T	T	U	
S	I	S	T	R	M	T	L	L	L	Y	E	S	C	
A	A	C	I	T	O	C	H	E	C	K	I	N	U	E
P	H	A	N	D	B	A	G	N	I	P	P	O	H	S

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Agent, Aircraft, Airline, Airport, Alerts, Arrival, Boarding Pass, Book, Catch, Check-in, Clear, Concourse, Counter, Crowd, Delay, Deplane, Domestic, Embark, Final, Flights, Gate, Handbag, Hustle, Layover, Locate, Lounge, Luggage, Maps, Passenger, Passport, Path, Security, Service, Shopping, Slow, Stop, Tickets, Tight, Travelers, Wait

Yesterday's Answer: London

Purchase the NEW **Treasury 22** in time for the holidays! Order online at WonderWordBooks.com or call toll-free 1-800-642-6460. (Each contains 75 puzzles.)

Patriots improve to 10-0, beat Bills, 20-13



FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady called out Rex Ryan and then he beat the Bills—again.

After shouting the name of the Buffalo coach as an audible, Brady led New England to a 20-13 victory over the Bills on Monday night and kept the defending Super Bowl champions on course for their second perfect regular season in nine years.

Brady completed 20 of 39 passes for 277 yards, hitting James White for a 20-yard score that was the first touchdown of the running back's career. White added a 6-yard run in the third quarter to give New England (10-0) the lead for good.

Brady even took a dig at the Buffalo coach, lining up under center in the first quarter and shouting "Rex Ryan! Rex Ryan!" Asked if there was a message in it, Brady struggled to suppress a smile.

"We have a lot of unusual terms," Brady said. "I think we run the gamut. So we've got to get creative and think of different things. That one is pretty unique."

Ryan was less troubled about any personal slight than losing to his longtime nemesis for the 11th time in 15 games.

"He likes me, I know that," the coach said.

The game was filled with mistakes, penalties, injuries and turnovers—including two fumbles on a single punt, a rare missed field goal by New Eng-



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady gets pumped up before an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, Monday, Nov. 23, 2015, in Foxborough, Mass. AP

land's Stephen Gostkowski and an inadvertent whistle that led to one of many lengthy conferences among the officials.

"That's one of the craziest I've ever seen," said LeSean McCoy, who ran 20 times for 82 yards and a 27-yard touchdown and caught six passes for 41 yards to surpass 100 yards from scrimmage for the fourth

straight game.

And the game ended on another apparent refereeing blunder, with Sammy Watkins crawling out of bounds untouched near midfield but the official inexplicably signaling for the clock to run.

New England remained unbeaten despite losing another key player: Danny Amendola,

who took over as the Patriots' No. 1 receiver because of last week's injury to Julian Edelman, caught nine passes for 117 yards before leaving with a knee injury of his own in the third quarter.

"We were down to two healthy receivers," Brady said. "You get pretty limited in things you can do pretty quickly."

The Patriots lead the AFC East by five games with six to play.

"At the end of the day, they find ways to win," Ryan said. "That's what championship teams do. We're not at that level, but I promise you we'll get there."

Tyrod Taylor was 20 for 36 for 233 yards for the Bills (5-5), who snapped a two-game winning streak and lost to Brady for the 25th time in 28 games; Ryan was 4-9 against New England as the New York Jets coach before getting swept in his first season in Buffalo.

With the wind chill temperature at 21 degrees at kickoff, both teams struggled on offense. Stephon Gilmore picked Brady off—just the fourth interception of the year for the reigning Super Bowl MVP; another interception was negated by off-setting penalties.

The Patriots even failed to score in the fourth—the first time they were shut out in a quarter since the first one of the season.

In the third, both teams fumbled on the same punt.

Leodis McKelvin fielded a punt at his own but coughed up the ball 2 yards later. New England's Jonathan Freeny picked it and rumbled 5 yards before he lost the ball and it bounced out of bounds.

The Patriots took over at the Buffalo 30 and took a 20-10 lead on Gostkowski's 35-yard field goal.

Even the referees were slop-

py.

Early in the third, Brady rolled toward the right sideline before throwing downfield to Amendola. As the receiver broke for the end zone, the play was whistled dead—apparently because the official thought Brady stepped out of bounds.

After a long discussion, the referee announced that there was an inadvertent whistle. The 14-yard reception counted, with a 15-yard penalty for interference from the Bills coaching staff.

The drive ended with an even more unusual error: Gostkowski's first miss in 51 weeks.

The Patriots managed just a field goal in the first, then went scoreless for 22 minutes, 16 seconds before Brady led a 33-second touchdown drive to make it 10-3 with 13 seconds left in the half.

Brady threw an out pass to White, who broke a tackle along the sideline to score from 20 yards out.

That prolonged New England's scoring streak, but it came to an end at 38 in a row when the Bills shut them out in the fourth.

And another streak was snapped, too.

Gostkowski hadn't missed a kick all season, a total of 22 field goals and 35 extra points before his attempt from 54 yards out in the third quarter sailed wide right. It was his first miss since Nov. 30, 2014, and his first miss at home since Week 2 of the 2013 season.

Dodgers hire Dave Roberts as team's 1st minority manager



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dave Roberts

overcame long odds during his playing days in the major leagues and survived a bout with cancer in recent years. He had no managerial experience when he went after the vacant Los Angeles Dodgers' job.

Fittingly, the personable Roberts beat the odds again, impressing the front office with his energy, enthusiasm and knowledge to become the Dodgers' first minority manager.

Los Angeles said Monday it plans to introduce the 43-year-old at a news conference on Dec. 1.

"When I put on this uniform as a player, I understood the special responsibility to honor those that played before me as well as the amazing bond between the Dodgers and their fans," Roberts said in a statement. "I feel that I have now come full circle in my career and there is plenty of unfinished business left in L.A."

He called the franchise "groundbreaking" for having such players as Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Sandy Koufax, Maury Wills, Fernando

Valenzuela and Hideo Nomo.

Roberts' father is black and his mother is Japanese. Roberts was born in Okinawa, Japan, where his father served in the U.S. Marines. He becomes the third minority manager in the majors, joining the Washington Nationals' Dusty Baker and the Atlanta Braves' Fredi Gonzalez.

Roberts said his hiring is "the opportunity of a lifetime."

The widely perceived front-runner for the job was former major leaguer Gabe Kapler, the team's director of player development. He played for Tampa Bay when Andrew Friedman, the Dodgers president of baseball operations, was there.

But Roberts made an indelible impression during the interview process.

"His energy is infectious and he has the rare ability to make a genuine connection with every person he comes across," Friedman said. "He has developed strong leadership qualities and accumulated a breadth of baseball experience over his career as both a player and coach. He is a 'baseball man' and 'people person' in the truest sense of those words. We feel fully confident that he will effectively lead our team in pursuit of its



In this June 6, 2014, file photo, San Diego Padres bench coach Dave Roberts wears a GoPro camera on his head before receiving a ceremonial first pitch from GoPro founder and CEO Nick Woodman before the San Diego Padres played the Washington Nationals in a baseball game, in San Diego. AP

ultimate goal—bringing a world championship back to the city of Los Angeles."

The Dodgers haven't appeared in the World Series since winning the title in 1988.

Roberts served as bench coach for San Diego during the last two seasons. Before that, Roberts was a special assistant for the Padres' front office in 2010 and their first base coach

from 2011-13. He served as manager for one game this season after Bud Black was fired.

"Growing up (Dave) might have been one of those guys that other people maybe discounted a little bit because of his size, even as an amateur player," Black said Monday. "He had to fight and work for everything he achieved athletically as a young man. When he got into profes-

sional baseball, I think being told he couldn't do something was always probably motivating."

Black was among several candidates who interviewed for the Dodgers job. He encouraged Roberts' ambitions when they were in San Diego together.

"I'm so excited for him, so proud of him," Black said.

Roberts was the starting center fielder for the Dodgers from 2002-04, hitting .262 in 302 games while stealing 118 bases, succeeding on 82 percent of his attempts. He becomes the fourth Dodgers manager to also play for the franchise, joining Tom Lasorda, Bill Russell and Glenn Hoffman. Roberts is the 10th manager since the team moved to Los Angeles and the 28th in franchise history.

He succeeds Don Mattingly, who mutually parted ways with the team last month after five years and a week later signed a deal to manage the Miami Marlins. Mattingly led the Dodgers to three consecutive NL West titles.

Mayor Eric Garcetti enthusiastically endorsed Roberts while noting the significance of his hiring.

"With Dave in the dugout, the team not only secures a

top notch baseball mind, but it also makes history, bringing the first person of color to this important post," Garcetti said. "It is good to have Dave back home, ready to inspire Angelinos on and off the field."

Third baseman Justin Turner tweeted: "Glad to have Dave Roberts on our side!!! Looking forward to getting out to AZ to get 2016 going already."

As a player, Roberts is perhaps best known for his stolen base in the 2004 AL playoffs that sparked the Red Sox to an elusive World Series championship.

In the AL Championship Series, Boston was three outs from being swept by the New York Yankees. Roberts pinch-ran after Kevin Millar drew a lead-off walk from Mariano Rivera. Roberts stole second and scored on Bill Mueller's single.

Boston won 6-4 in 12 innings and then became the first team in major league history to overcome a 3-0 deficit and win a postseason series. Roberts did not play as the Red Sox swept St. Louis for their first championship since 1918, but will always be beloved in Boston because of that one play.

In 2010, Roberts survived a bout with Hodgkin's lymphoma.

LeBron joins 'Big O' on elite list, leads Cavs past Magic



CLEVELAND (AP)—No player in NBA history stuffed a stat sheet quite like Oscar Robertson. The “Big O” was a triple-double machine.

On Monday night, LeBron James moved into his rarefied air.

James joined Robertson on an exclusive list and Kevin Love scored a season-high 34 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers remained unbeaten at home with a 117-103 win over the Orlando Magic.

James had 15 points and 13 assists and joined the legendary Robertson as the only players in history to rank in the top 25 in career points and assists.

“He’s a guy who laid the foundation,” James said of Robertson, “and I’m just trying to carry it on.”

With his fifth assist, James moved past Norm Nixon (6,386) into 25th place and moved alongside Robertson, who finished his Hall of Fame career with 26,710 points and 9,887 assists. James will soon eclipse Robertson’s scoring total and the unselfish superstar is a good bet to pass him on the assist list as well.

James fittingly distributed praise to those who helped him reach the milestone.

“I give all the credit to the two great franchises I’ve been a part of and the players and the teammates and the coaching staffs that I’ve played for so far that

have allowed me to go out and do the things I’ve done in my career,” he said. “So none of that would be possible without them.”

Love scored 27 in the first half - 17 in a row in one stretch for the Cavs, who made 18 3-pointers and improved to 8-0 at home.

Andrew Nicholson scored 18 and Evan Fournier had 13 points for the Magic. Orlando has dropped 11 straight to Cleveland.

James came in needing 21 points to surpass Reggie Miller (25,279) for 18th place on the career scoring list. While he didn’t quite catch Miller, he moved into the company of Robertson, a do-it-all guard who is sometimes overlooked when some fans debate the game’s top players.

James knows better.

“If you are a true basketball fan and you know the history of the game, there is no way he can ever be lost,” James said. “In our league too much is trying to compare greats to greats instead of just accepting and acknowledging and saying, ‘Wow, these are just great players.’”

Cavs coach David Blatt was not aware James matched Robertson until after the game.

“That gives me chills to even hear that,” Blatt said. “That’s an amazing, amazing accomplishment.”

J.R. Smith scored a season-high 26 and Matthew Dellavedova, starting in place of injured



Mo Williams and playing with a sore leg, added 15 for Cleveland.

James passed Nixon with five minutes left in the second quarter, when he drove the lane and flicked a pass into the right corner to Love, who knocked down one of his six 3-pointers.

It was Love, with some help from James, who brought Cleveland back with a one-man scoring spree in the second quarter.

With the Cavs down 42-34 after squandering a 12-point lead,

Love made three 3-pointers and scored 17 straight points over a 5:20 span. He capped his outburst with a 3-pointer with 27 seconds left—off another dish by James—to give the Cavs a 59-55 halftime lead.

The Cavs came out firing in the third, making three early 3-pointers to push their lead to double digits and pull away from the Magic, outscored 33-20 in the third.

Thunder 111, Jazz 89

In Salt Lake City, Oklahoma

City star Kevin Durant had 27 points and six rebounds in his return from a hamstring injury.

Durant was 10 for 13 from the field in his first game since he got hurt Nov. 10 at Washington. Russell Westbrook narrowly missed his third triple-double of the season with 20 points, seven rebounds and nine assists.

The Thunder ran away with the game in the second quarter, outscoring the Jazz 40-26 and shooting 14 for 19 from the field.

Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 19 points. Derrick Favors had 11 points, seven rebounds and two blocks, and Rudy Gobert finished with 10 points.

Heat 95, Knicks 78

In Miami, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh each scored 16 points as Miami ended New York’s four-game winning streak.

Goran Dragic had 13 points and nine assists for the Heat, who went on a 36-8 run in the first half. Tyler Johnson scored 12, and Hassan Whiteside had 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Miami would eventually lead by as many as 26, both its biggest advantage and the Knicks’ biggest deficit so far this season. The Knicks hadn’t even trailed by double figures in any of their last eight games.

Carmelo Anthony scored 21 points for New York, which has lost 13 of its last 16 games in Miami. Rookie Kristaps Porzingis had 20 points and 14 rebounds.

Timberwolves 100, 76ers 95

In Minneapolis, Andrew Wiggins scored 17 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter to help Minnesota keep Philadelphia winless on the season.

Kevin Garnett had eight points and 10 rebounds and the Timberwolves (6-8) won at home for the first time in

^{AP}
Cleveland Cavaliers’ LeBron James (23) shoots over Orlando Magic’s Aaron Gordon (00) in the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Nov. 23, 2015, in Cleveland.

seven games this season. They dropped Philadelphia to 0-15 and avoided another embarrassing home loss to the Sixers, who snapped an 0-17 start to last season with a win at Target Center.

Jahlil Okafor had 25 points, 12 rebounds and two blocks for Philadelphia and thoroughly outplayed No. 1 overall pick Karl-Anthony Towns, who played just 19 minutes because of foul trouble. The Sixers led by 13 in the first half and by five with 2:30 to play but once again couldn’t hold on.

Bucks 109, Pistons 88

In Milwaukee, Greg Monroe had 20 points and 13 rebounds in his first game against his former team, leading the Bucks to the victory.

Milwaukee had seven players score in double figures, including each of its starters. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 17 points, and Khris Middleton scored 16.

The Bucks had lost three straight and five of six.

Andre Drummond had 15 points and 15 rebounds for Detroit, but appeared to hurt himself late in the second quarter. He walked slowly up the court holding his left side after trying to defend Monroe.

Coach Stan Van Gundy said after that game that Drummond was fine.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 17 points for the Pistons, who have dropped six of eight.

Hornets 127, Kings 122, OT

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Kemba Walker scored 39 points as Charlotte battled back from 22 points down in the second half to beat Sacramento in overtime.

Nicolas Batum had 18 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for the Hornets, who have won four of their last five games. Jeremy Lin had seven of his 14 points in overtime.

It was the second-largest comeback in franchise history.

DeMarcus Cousins had 30 points and 11 rebounds for Sacramento, and Rudy Gay had 28 points and 10 boards. Rajon Rondo had 14 points and 20 assists.

Spurs 98, Suns 84

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard had 24 points and 13 rebounds as the Spurs shut down the Suns.

Phoenix was averaging 106.5 points, but was held to season low for points and committed a season-high 28 turnovers.

Tony Parker had 20 points and eight assists for San Antonio, which is off to an 11-3 start.

Markieff Morris had 28 points and Brandon Knight scored 18 for Phoenix.

Warriors look to follow up NBA title by posting record start

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Anyone who thought the Golden State Warriors would be content after winning one NBA title was sadly mistaken.

With Stephen Curry hitting 3-pointers at a record-setting pace and the rest of his teammates playing with a high level of intensity and focus, the Warriors have tied the NBA record with 15 straight wins to open the season.

Somehow, they have found a way to improve following a season when they won 67 games and rolled through the playoffs without ever being taken to a seventh game.

“We’re trying to win another championship,” forward Draymond Green said. “That’s what we’re fueled by. I think we’ve gotten greedy, but a good greedy. I think it’s way better to be greedy for success than hungover on success. I think we’re on the right end of the spectrum, which is great.”

The Warriors have a chance to break the record they currently share with the 1948-49 Washington Capitols and 1993-94 Houston Rockets when they host the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

After downplaying the chase

of the record at the start of the season, Golden State has embraced it.

“Now that we’re here and have tied the record, it’s a huge accomplishment,” Curry said. “You never know if you’ll ever be in this position again. We have a great group and to be able to be in position to do something that hasn’t been done in the history of the NBA with all the great teams and all the great players who have played in this league, that’s special.”

The only team standing in their way is the Lakers, who have the second-worst record in the NBA with just two wins in 13 games.

Lakers coach Byron Scott said the Warriors are the best team he’s seen in a while and star guard Kobe Bryant said stranger things have happened than a team playing as poorly as the Lakers beating one as dominant as the Warriors.

“We might go up there and we might play like gangbusters up there,” Bryant said Sunday in Los Angeles. “You never know.”

The Warriors have gotten to this point with the help of a late game-tying 3-pointer to force overtime in a home win against

Brooklyn, a comeback from 23 points down to beat the Los Angeles Clippers and plenty of blowouts.

They have outscored the opposition by 14.4 points per game, the most at this point of the season since the 1996-97 Chicago Bulls followed up their record 72-win campaign by outscoring their first 15 opponents by 16.5 points on the way to a 14-1 start the following year.

“They’ve just been consistent,” said LeBron James, who lost to Golden State in the finals last season with Cleveland. “Think the most impressive thing is the way they’ve been playing at a high level for so long. I think it comes with a lot of health. They’ve been healthy. They’ve been the most healthy team I’ve ever seen in NBA history and they have great talent. Those guys all play for one common goal and that’s to win and that’s all that matters.”

Golden State has the depth to overcome whatever injuries the Warriors have had. Starting center Andrew Bogut missed six games with a concussion, guard Klay Thompson has been dealing with a stiff back that forced him to miss one

Lopsided wins for Blue Haus, Armatech

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Blue Haus and Armatech bagged easy wins in the masters division of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League last Monday night at the San Antonio court.

Blue Haus crushed KB Market in the first game, 92-67, while Armatech trounced VM Production in the nightcap, 90-53.

The victory gave Armatech a 4-2 record and second place in the team standings behind unbeaten GMJ/IKKI (4-0) and MJD/GPPCA (4-0), while Blue Haus is at close third with its 3-1 mark. VM Production and KB Market dropped to 2-3 and 2-4

slates, respectively, while CES Electronics (1-6) and Maplas (0-5) complete the field.

Armatech held VM Production to 8 points in the first quarter to dictate the tempo of the game and the former made it a double-digit lead at halftime, 37-17, en route to the 37-point winning margin. Armatech drew points from every player it fielded in the game to establish a big lead early, while VM Production was limited to four field goals apiece in the first two periods.

Despite its 20-point halftime edge, Armatech played no let up both on offense and defense in the third period, which ended with the winning team way ahead, 64-29. Bruce Berline showed no mercy against the much smaller VM Production frontliners, as he asserted his might in the paint and

dropped 10 of his total points in the third canto.

With the game in the bag, Armatech finally let its guard down in the fourth, allowing VM Production to pick up garbage points.

In the first game, Blue Haus went to business in the final half to cruise past KB Market.

Ahead by only 7 at the break, 34-27, Edsel Mendoza nailed 7 of his 13 markers in the third period and drew a lot of help from his teammates to lift Blue Haus to a double-digit spread, 60-48.

Blue Haus went on to pad its lead in the fourth canto, as it continued to spread the wealth in the final frame. Blue Haus finished off KB Market in style, drilling four straight triples, two came from Tony Diaz, who was one of the five players on the team

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Armatech's Bruce Berline, center, loses his balance after being fouled by VM Production's Nilo Buhay, right, while Cesar Barroza tries to provide help defense during the third quarter of their masters division game in the San Antonio caging last Monday night at the San Antonio court.

to score in twin digits. Diaz had 15 points, just 2 less than Steve Rasa's output, while Junar Guiab and Felix Palacios contributed 12 and 10, respectively.

Edgar Pangelinan paced KB Market with his 26 markers.

First Game

Blue Haus 92 – Rasa 17, Diaz 15, Mendoza 13, Guiab 12, Palacios 10, Santos 6, Moises 5, Itaas 5, Buenabajo 2.

KB Market 67 – Pangelinan 26, Camacho 10, Osias 9, Umali 8, Garcia 4, Ayuyu 4, Morales 4, Puri 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-17, 34-27, 60-48, 92-67.

Second Game

Armatech 90 – Berline 20,



Abuy 11, Park 11, Pablo 11, Bartolo 8, Malasarte 6, Moreno 6, Poquiz 4, Crisostomo 4, Canedo 2.

VM Production 53 – Francia 9, Sanchez 8, Buhay 7, Castro 6,

Manipon 5, Marcelo 4, Barrozo 2, Catacutan 2, Ramos 2, Geli 2, Brillo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-8, 37-17, 64-24, 90-53.

70 join singles events in Tan Holdings tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic will kick off this weekend with 70 players participating in junior singles events.

The co-ed mini tennis drew the most entries with 18, while the boys U12 and U14 singles lured 12 players each. The girls U12 and U14 has nine and six players, respectively, while six will also suit up in the girls U16 and three will see action in the boys U16. In the co-ed U18 and U10, there are four entries apiece.

Anika Camacho leads the co-ed mini tennis cast and will be joined by Davina Chae, J.C. Ferrer, Erin Frink, Sakuha Hara, Dustin Hyun, Elizabeth James, Katie Rose James, Chae Eun Jim, Do Geon Kim, La Hunn and La Mee Lam, Ravi Richards, Derek, Hitomi, and Yukiko Sasamoto, Yejin Son, and Lyssa Rae Steele.

In the boys U10 singles, which has a round-robin format, Andrew Chung, Anthony Gregoire, Min Gi Jung, and Arkash Rai will contest the championship, while the co-ed U18 singles will feature Carol Lee,

Luther Lizama, Colin Ramsey, and Moris Villanueva.

In the boys 12 singles, which will follow a compass draw, Jim Min Woo and Seung Jin Paik are the Top 2 seeds. They will battle the division crown against Conrao Bao, Min Hin Cho, Daniel Kang, Soung Won Lee, Roman Merletti, Rintaro Miyawaki, Jaehoon Son, Richard Steele, and Miku Torres.

The boys U14 also has a compass draw with Robbie Schorr getting the top seed and is joined by No. 2 Ken Song, No. 3 Tony Kim, and No. 4 A.J. Hudkins. Completing the field are Andrew and Brian Kim, Allan and Sean Lee, Roman Merletti, Paik, Aditya Rai, and Jeffrey Seo.

In the girls U14 singles, the Top 4 seeded players are Malika Miyawaki, Asia Raulerson, and siblings Conatsu and Coume Kaga. Also entered in the division are Maria Gregoire, Alyssa Merletti, Riko Ojima, Joycelyn Tenai, and Erika Tuttle. Coume and Tuttle will play in the girls U12 singles, too, as the Top 2 seeds and will fight the division tiara against Anika Camacho, Sunny Hyun, Michelle Ryu, and Susan Sablan.

In the U16 singles, the girls field will have No. 1 and 2 seeds Isabel Heras and Tania Tan, Alyssa Merletti, Mimi Sakano, Victoria Smith, and Ami Tsukagoshi. The round-robin boys division has Tony Kim, Michael Ren, and Vincent Tudela.

Week 1 of the two-weekend tournament will also hold doubles contest in the boys U12, boys and girls U14, and girls U16.

Bao and Jaehoon Son will team up in the boys U12 doubles, while the other pairings are Cho-Soung Won Lee, Chung and Jung, Daniel Kang and Woo, Miyawami and Steele, and Beckham and Ravi Richards. There are only three teams in the boys U14 with the duo of Sean Lee and Rai one of them and will be playing against the tandems of Ren and Tudela and Schorr and Song. For the girls U14 doubles, Gregoire and Raulerson will slug it out against Conatsu and Miyawaki, while the girls U16 has three teams in Heras-Tan, Sakano-Tsukagoshi, and Smith-Tenai.

Games in the opening week will be played at the various hotel courts on Saipan, but the tournament's main hub is the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

'Turkey Shoot' open billiards tournament tonight



A Turkey Shoot 8-Ball billiards tournament will be held at 8pm tonight at the Jokers Bar & Restaurant in Garapan.

Registration starts at 7pm with a \$10 entrance fee for the double-elimination tournament.

The tournament is open to all billiards players on Saipan, whether they are members of teams seeing action in the Tuesday and Thursday leagues of the Saipan Billiards Association.

The tournament is also open to all skill levels, from beginners who are hoping to experience playing in a tournament to vet-

erans, who are regulars of both leagues organized by the SBA.

A cash prize, trophy, and a turkey await the lucky winner in time for tomorrow's Thanksgiving Day celebration.

Pacific Amusement Inc. is organizing the tournament and supported in part by Jokers Bar, which also hosts the weekly darts and billiards blind draw tournaments.

In other news, SBA and Saipan Electronic Darts Association secretary Warlee Ellama will be moving the weekly darts and billiards blind draw tournaments held every Wednesday to Saturday.

Ellama said they don't want

the weekly tournaments to overlap with SEDA's regular Winter/Spring season that is set to open on Monday, Nov. 30, in various bars on the island.

The Masters and A divisions will kick off the games in SEDA's Winter/Spring Season on Monday followed by matches in the Tuesday B; Ladies, Chichirika, and Kingfisher (Wednesday); and Fanihi and Flame Tree (Thursday).

Ellama added that they also wanted a different bar to host both the weekly darts and billiards tournaments.

For more information, call Ellama at 2344397 or 2855967. (Jon Perez)

MP

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U18 pairing.

Ryu Tanzawa led Matansa's route of Paire, drilling four goals, while Chad Shankweiler contributed two. David Mafnas and Terrence Evan Belcher added one goal each.

Matansa wrapped up the season with a 2-0-4 record and scored 10 goals, while giving up only seven. Tan Holdings tallied the most goals in the double-round robin regular season with its 34, while MP had 10. Paire, which was winless in six games, recorded only one goal and gave up 42.

BOYS U15 MP United 8, Tan Holdings-2 0

In the first boys U15 match at the Oleai pitch, MP United is

still undefeated in five games after blanking Tan Holdings 2.

Sunjoon Tenorio had a hat-trick in the easy win, while Alex Park chipped in two goals. Matthew Ong, Oliver Lee, James Kim were the other scorers for MP United, which boosted its bid for the division championship and could seal the title if it prevails against rival Tan Holdings-1 in their make-up game this Saturday at 10am.

Tan Holdings-1 6, Paire 0

Tan Holdings 1 matched MP United's 5-0-0 win-draw-loss mark following a shutout victory against Paire in the second match at the Oleai pitch last weekend.

Six different players scored in Tan Holdings' lopsided triumph. Albert Bergancia hit the board

she was also a runner-up in the first (8:00) and second (7:20) legs, respectively.

Hopwood's Janelle Saluta (7:28), Hana Ojima of SCS, ACS' Elizabeth Xu (7:40), and Jzl Santomin also of Hopwood (8:25) finished third to sixth places, respectively.

The U9 girls Top 6 were William S. Reyes School's Jasmine Saluta (9:17) and Princess Jose (9:24), SCS' Jenny Zhang (9:51), Mt. Carmel School's Quimari Duenas (11:26), and Angela Maratas (12:06) and Erish Carreon (12:27) also of WSR.

SCS runners also swept the U7 girls division with Kilah Bacani (8:30), Abbie Kim (9:49), and Ye Jie Zhang (9:57) in the Top 3 followed by San Vicente Elementary School's Phoenix Gross (10:05) her sister Beatrice Gross (10:53), SCS' You Na Li (12:01).

ACS also won the U18 team trophy, while SCS topped the U11 division with 48 points.

first for the winning squad, followed by John Michael Rojas, Mark Esalan, Alan Hinson, Jonah Pohl, and Thaiph Austria.

Kanoa 2, Matansa 1

Over at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, Kanoa edged Matansa.

Ian Maniago delivered the winning goal in the 53rd minute, while Henry Ferrer nailed the other goal for Kanoa, which improved to a 3-0-3 record for fourth place in the team standings behind Paire (3-0-2).

Matansa, which got its lone goal in the match from Ray Lieto in the 10th minute, slid from fifth to sixth place with its 1-0-4 slate. Tan Holdings-2 (1-0-4) took the No. 5 spot with its more goals, 19-12, while Shirley's FC (0-0-5) is at the bottom of the team standings.

RFP

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sian Games.

NMSA is in the process of getting the track oval back to its Level II certification given by the International Association of Athletics Federations in time for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, which Saipan would be hosting for the first time.

The Oleai track and field stadium is the only eight-lane, IAAF Level II certified track in the Micronesian region.

NMHC is the funding agency that is helping NMSA for the resurfacing after the CNMI sports body applied for a Community Development Block Grant. The grant is \$965,000 where \$772,000 would be used for the resurfacing, while the remaining \$192,000 is for administrative work.

NMSA will announce to the public that they would be closing the track and field facility once the resurfacing begins.

2015 Pacific Islands Club Dodgeball Tournament

PHOTOS By PAUL DUJUA



Members of Kagman Elementary School's dodgeball team show their trophies and prizes after placing second to William S. Reyes Elementary School in last Saturday's annual Pacific Islands Club Dodgeball Tournament at the PIC tennis courts.



Team Oleai Elementary School pose for a group after the games.



Whispering Palms students join their coaches for a group shot.



The San Vicente Elementary School Canaries failed to defend their title but still had a great time. They went home with PIC gift certificates.



PIC director for Sports, Entertainment, and Activities Glenn Polcaire, third left, huddles up with tournament officials before the start of the games.



Team Garapan Elementary School members in a wacky pose.



Members of the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School dodgeball team.



The Brilliant Star School Bears with principal Richard Sikkell, left.



The Grace Christian Academy Eagles.



Koblerville Elementary School went undefeated after the elimination round but got knocked out in the bracket stages.

Patriots
improve to
10-0, beat
Bills, 20-13

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Lopsided wins
for Blue Haus,
Armotech

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28 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Gabrielle foils ACS in Cross Country race

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Multi-sport athlete Gabrielle Race beat a platoon of Agape Christian School runners to finish on top of the podium in the 2015 All Schools Cross Country race finale held last Saturday at the Airport Field.

Race, who was the only female runner not wearing an ACS uniform, topped the girls U18 division to lead five others who finished first in their respective age groups.

She finished the 3.2-mile (5.2 kilometers), three-lap course in 23:47, shaving off more than one minute of her third leg time of 24:11.

The Marianas High School bet, also a member of the three-time Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization basketball champions Lady Dolphins, also



Northern Marianas Athletics

broke her last year's winning time of 30:24.

Race, who played tennis as a youngster, was more than five minutes ahead of her closest pursuer as she prevented any of the 14 other ACS runners to end up first.

Sophie Shi, a two-time runner-up in the first two legs this year, was the fastest ACS female runner at 29:12 followed by teammates Song Chae (29:45), Ruth Wang (30:07), and Candy Tang (3-29).

Three-leg winner Tiffany Yang came in sixth place with

31:11 as she still participated even though she's suffering from an injured foot. Her best time was 27:02 in the final leg last week, which could have good for second place behind race.

ACS bounced back in the U15 division with a sweep of the Top 3 positions with Hopwood Middle School duplicating the feat in the U13 age group.

Joy Lyu led an all-ACS podium finish in the girls U15 as she clocked 18:27 after the 2.1-mile (3.3k) course for middle school runners.

Sookie Xu Lingling came in second (19:25), while Sarah Wu was third (19:51). Esther Li, another ACS bet, was fourth at 21:00 followed by Saipan Southern High School teammates Rae Min (26:06) and Lucy Gu (28:25).

Hopwood's Conatsu Kaga bested teammates Therize Mil-

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JON PEREZ

Gabrielle Race, right, of Marianas High School capped her high school career with a second straight All Schools Cross Country crown as she again topped last Saturday's final race at the Airport Field.

MP United forces rubber vs Tan Holdings



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club and Tan Holdings FC will have to meet for the third time this season to decide the winner of the boys U18 championship in the 2015 NMIFA Youth Fall League.

MP United arranged a play-

off match against Tan Holdings after earning a 1-0 win in the final regular season game in the division last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



Kennedy Izuka made the lone goal in the 59th minute with Tan Holdings goalie Hobin Lee thinking the

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United Football Club's Jason Kim tries to keep the ball away from Tan Holdings FC's Joel Fruit during the second half of their boys U18 division game in the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ball will go over the post so he did not jump high enough for the save. He had miscalculation, as the ball just dropped inside the right top corner of the post.

Izuka and company hung on to the shaky lead in the remaining minutes of the second half, as Tan Holdings had limited options on offense with its top scorer Sean Perez missing the match due to sickness.

With MP United pulling off the close win, it tied Tan Holdings' record at 5-0-1 (win-draw-loss). The deadlock will be resolved via a playoff game, which will be rescheduled on a later date as NMIFA still has to complete its other matches (boys U15) for the shortened fall season this weekend.

Meanwhile, Matansa FC finished the season strong following an 8-0 demolition of Paire FC in the other boys

See MP on Page 26

RFP for track resurfacing out Dec. 1

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will put out a request for proposal for the planned resurfacing of the Oleai Sports Complex's track oval on Dec. 1.

The project, delayed for a few months due to various reasons particularly after several typhoons hit the island, now moves forward with the Northern Marianas Sports Association hoping that resurfacing begins in early 2016 to avoid the rainy season that could again stall the project.

In March this year, NMHC published an RFP for interested contractors to submit the architectural and engineering designs for the track resurfacing.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they met with NMHC officials last Monday where they were updated on the project.

Once the RFP is out, where it needs to be published on newspapers or announced to the public, interested contractors are given one month to submit their bids.

"We need at least three contractors to submit their bids. We will then carefully study their bids before we decide on which contractor to hire for the resurfacing of the track," said Rogolifoi.

He added that NMSA's only concern is that if the winning contractor could return the track

surface to its original form.

"Our only concern is that if all the contractors here are capable and have knowledge of working on a track resurfacing project," said Rogolifoi.

He added that a German expert in installing rubber track surfaces supervised the project when the Oleai track and field stadium was constructed in early 2000.

Rogolifoi, in an earlier interview by the *Saipan Tribune*, said that they are hoping that the winning contractor would

bring in an expert to oversee the track's resurfacing.

He added, in the interview, that NMSA wants to make sure the entire process—from removing the old surface, putting the adhesive, and laying the new track—is done correctly to guarantee the longevity of the facility.

The track oval opened in 2002 and has hosted several international athletics events including the 2006 Microne-

See RFP on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Northern Marianas Athletics coach Elias Rangamar, left, supervises a training session with several young runners at the Oleai track oval. CNMI athletes and the public can again use the decade-long track facility without the threat of getting injured once resurfacing is done next year.